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New Jersey Test of Reasoning Skills

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## New Jersey Test of Reasoning Skills Form B

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# **NEW JERSEY TEST OF REASONING SKILLS**

## **FORM B**

The New Jersey Test of Reasoning Skills was developed by Dr Virginia Shipman. Senior Research Psychologist, Educational Testing Service, Princeton, New Jersey, with support from the Division of Research, Planning and Evaluation of the New Jersey Department of Education under Title IV-C. This test is the property of the Totowa, New Jersey Board of Education, and can be used or reproduced, in part in its totality, only with permission of the Board or its authorised representative.

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## NEW JERSEY TEST OF REASONING SKILLS

Directions: For each item, fill in the space on your answer sheet next to the letter of the best answer.

If you are not sure which answer is correct, make the best guess you can.

If you have trouble reading any of the words, raise your hand for help.

Practice Item:

Dale is taller than Chris. Therefore:

- a. Chris is taller than Dale.
- b. You can't tell whether or not Chris is the same height as Dale.
- c. Chris is shorter than Dale.

The correct answer is c. On your answer sheet, your answer would look like this:

a	b	c	
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1. Jim remarked, "All tigers are animals with stripes".  
"But it doesn't follow," replied Donna, "that all animals with stripes are tigers".
  - a. Donna's wrong: from what Jim said, it does follow that all animals with stripes are tigers.
  - b. Donna's right: from what Jim said, it does not follow that all animals with stripes are tigers.
  - c. You can't tell whether Donna is right or wrong.
2. Judy said, "There aren't any wooden chairs in the store."  
Betty asked, "Couldn't you say the same thing another way?"  
Which of these answer could Judy give?
  - a. "Only metal chairs are in the store."
  - b. "No wooden chairs are in the store."
  - c. "Some wooden chairs are not in the store".
3. You have to live at least a mile away from our school to ride the bus. Barbara lives two miles from our school. Therefore Barbara:
  - a. May ride the bus to school.
  - b. Rides the bus to school.
  - c. Is not allowed to ride the bus to school.

4. "What are steel bridges made of?" asked Phil.  
Phil's question is not a good one because:
- a. Lots of things besides bridges are made of steel.
  - b. Bridges are never made of steel.
  - c. It gives away the answer.
5. "I know a girl from France who's very tall," said Pete.  
"Then everyone from France must be tall", replied Joe.  
Joe's reply is:
- a. Good reasoning, because people from the same country are very much alike.
  - b. Poor reasoning, because people from the same country are often different.
  - c. Poor reasoning, because only people who have been to France know if everyone there is tall.
6. Linda said, "Water boils, and this liquid boils. So this liquid must be water."
- a. Linda's right.
  - b. Linda's wrong, because water doesn't always boil.
  - c. Linda's wrong, because lots of liquids boil.
7. Patty said, "Only birds are eagles." Another way of saying this would be:
- a. All eagles are birds.
  - b. All birds are eagles.
  - c. Some eagles are birds.
8. When the teacher asked, "How is your head related to your neck?"
- a. Jenny said, "The way my foot is related to my knee."
  - b. Eddie said, "The way my hand is related to my wrist."
  - c. Frank said, "The way my elbow is related to my shoulder."

Which is the best answer?

9. Jan wondered, "How much did Ted's family pay for his dog?" Jan was assuming that:
- Ted's family wasn't given the dog as a gift.
  - Ted's family was given the dog as a gift.
  - Ted's family didn't buy the dog.
10. Nancy said, "I see Tom's staying after school. He must have been caught fighting in the hall."
- Nancy must be assuming that:
- There are many reasons why a person might have to stay after school.
  - There are only a few reasons why a person might have to stay after school.
  - There is only one reason why a person might have to stay after school.
11. Steve said, "All cars are things that stop at red lights."  
"Well then," said Alice, "my father doesn't have to stop at red lights. He has a motorcycle." From what Steve said:
- You cannot tell whether or not Alice's father has to stop at red lights.
  - It follows that Alice's father does have to stop at red lights.
  - It follows that Alice's father does not have to stop at red lights.
12. Ted said, "No panda born in a zoo has every survived."  
Mike said, "I just heard about a panda that was born in a zoo".  
If Ted and Mike are both right, then the animal Mike heard about:
- Could not have been a panda.
  - May not survive.
  - Wasn't born in a zoo.

13. Bill has a bag full of jelly beans. He reaches in without looking and pulls out three jelly beans. They are all red. On the basis of what he knows, what can Bill figure out about the rest of the jelly beans in the bag?
- a. They must all be red.
  - b. They may all be red.
  - c. They cannot all be red.
14. Pearl said, "Triangles always have three corners."  
Joe said, "That's no different from saying that all triangles are three-cornered things".
- a. Joe's wrong: Pearl is saying that some triangles are three-cornered things".
  - b. Joe's right.
  - c. Joe's wrong: Pearl is saying that some three-cornered things are triangles.
15. John weighs less than anyone else in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Fred weighs more than anyone else in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Therefore:
- a. John weighs more than Fred.
  - b. Fred weighs more than John.
  - c. You can't tell who weighs more.
16. The teacher said, "When you leave the carpenter shop, I want you to take your saws and other tools and I want you to file down the stairs." Several students were confused, because they weren't sure:
- a. Whether or not to leave their saws and files in the workshop.
  - b. Whether or not to take their saws and files with them.
  - c. Whether to walk one behind the other down the stairs, or to use their files on the stairs.

17. The teacher asked the class if they thought a shorter school day would be a good idea. Jim said, "No, because we might not learn as much as we need to in a shorter day". Ruth said, "No, because if they keep making the school days shorter, pretty soon there would be no school at all."

Jack said, "No, because some older guys I know said it was a stupid idea". Who gave the best reason?

- a. Jim.
  - b. Ruth.
  - c. Jack.
18. Josie said, "This paper must have been written by a boy, because the handwriting is so bad." Josie must be assuming that:
- a. Some boys have poor handwriting.
  - b. Only boys have poor handwriting.
  - c. All boys have poor handwriting.
19. Brad said, "Each and every minnow is a fish." Frank said, "That's the same as saying that all minnows are fish".
- a. Frank's right: "each and every" means "all."
  - b. Frank's wrong: Brad is saying that only minnows are fish.
  - c. Frank's wrong: Brad is saying that some minnows are fish.
20. An engineer who designs and tests roller coasters has examined the roller coaster in our town. He says it isn't safe. Is this a good reason for not going on the roller coaster in our town?
- a. Yes.
  - b. No.
  - c. You can't tell from the information given.
21. Henry is tall and thin. Sally is tall and think. Flo is tall and thin. Thousands of people are tall and thin. George is thin. Therefore:
- a. George must be tall.
  - b. You cannot tell if George is tall.
  - c. George cannot be tall.

22. Nancy sees, on a map, that one country is touching two other countries. Does this mean that:
- The other two countries are touching each other?
  - The other two countries are not touching each other?
  - Either statement could be true?
23. The teacher said, "Edie, please wait outside for the present." Edie was confused because:
- She wasn't sure how long she would have to wait.
  - She wasn't sure whether she was being told to expect a present or to wait for a while.
  - She wasn't sure whether she was expected to give a present or to receive one.
24. Jill is older than Bob. Helen is also older than Bob. Therefore, it follows that:
- You can't tell who is oldest.
  - Jill and Helen are both the same age.
  - You can't tell who is youngest.
25. The sign in the school office said, "No visitors are permitted." "So it follows," Scott said, "that no people permitted to enter are visitors."
- Scott's wrong: from what the sign says, it follows that some people permitted to enter are visitors.
  - Scott's wrong: from what the sign says, it follows that some visitors are permitted to enter.
  - Scott's right.
26. Jennifer and Ann wrote stories about their vacations. Jennifer like the story Ann wrote. Therefore,
- Ann must have liked the story Jennifer wrote.
  - Ann couldn't have liked the story Jennifer wrote.
  - You can't tell whether or nor Ann liked Jennifer's story.

27. Mary said: "Have you noticed that almost everyone who writes for the school newspaper is under 5 feet tall?"

Jack replied, "That must be the reason I wasn't allowed to write for the newspaper. I'm 5 feet tall."

Under ordinary circumstances,

- a. Jack's height would be a good reason for keeping him off the paper.
  - b. Jack's height would not be a good reason for keeping him off the paper.
  - c. You can't say whether or not a person's height is a good reason for keeping him off the paper.
28. Gus said, "The moon is a long way from the sun."  
Bud said, "I guess it must follow that the sun is a long way from the moon."
- a. Bud's right.
  - b. Bud's wrong, because the sun is close to the moon.
  - c. Bud's wrong, because what he said doesn't follow from what Gus said.
29. All these books are things in this room that belong to Mike. All things in this room that belong to Mike are marked with a red star. Therefore,
- a. All things marked with a red star are books in this room.
  - b. All these books are marked with a red star.
  - c. All things marked with a red star are things in this room that belong to Mike.
30. Betsy said, "I'm thinking about the difference between light green and dark green." Bill said, "And I'm thinking about the difference between cupcakes and kangaroos".
- a. Both are thinking about differences of degree.
  - b. Both are thinking about differences of kind.
  - c. The first is a difference of degree; the second is a difference of kind.

31. Pete said, "I have three puppies. Duke barks louder than Prince, and Rex barks louder than Duke".

It therefore follows that:

- a. Rex barks the loudest.
- b. Prince barks louder than Rex.
- c. Duke barks the loudest.

32. Chris and Jenny go to the same school. Chris said, "All cat-haters in our school are third-graders". Jenny said, "Yes, and all third-graders in our school are horse-lovers."

From the information given, it follows that:

- a. all cat-haters in their school are horse-lovers.
- b. all horse-lovers in their school are cat-haters.
- c. all horse-lovers are third-graders in their school.

33. Marge said, "On TV, I saw this man who just finished serving 20 years for bank robbery, and he said kids shouldn't smoke cigarettes".

Eddie replied, "I wouldn't believe anything a person like that might say."

- a. Eddie's right: you can't ever believe a robber.
- b. If the man was on TV, it makes sense to believe him.
- c. Being on TV doesn't make the man right about cigarettes, and being a bank robber doesn't make him wrong.

34. Paula remarked, "The 5<sup>th</sup> graders are angrier than the 6<sup>th</sup> graders, and the 6<sup>th</sup> graders are angrier than the 7<sup>th</sup> graders."

From what Paula said, it follows that:

- a. the 7<sup>th</sup> graders are angrier than the 5<sup>th</sup> graders.
- b. the 6<sup>th</sup> graders are angrier than the 5<sup>th</sup> graders.
- c. the 5<sup>th</sup> graders are angrier than the 7<sup>th</sup> graders.

35. The temperature of cold water compared with the temperature of warm water is a difference of ..... The taste of cold water compared with the sound of a telephone is a difference of .....
- a. The first answer should be kind and the second should be degree.
  - b. The first answer should be degree and the second should be kind.
  - c. Both answers should be degree.
36. Barbara said, "All mammals are creatures that breathe air". Dave said, "And birds are creatures that breathe air, so it follows that all birds are mammals".
- a. Dave is wrong because birds don't breathe air.
  - b. Dave is wrong because it doesn't follow that all birds are mammals.
  - c. Dave is right, because birds do breathe air.
37. The clerk said, "The only ice cream flavours we have a chocolate and vanilla." Ralph said, "So there are three possibilities: either we get chocolate, or we get vanilla, or we get both".
- June said, "I can think of one more possibility."
- What possibility was June thinking of?
- a. Strawberry.
  - b. Chocolate.
  - c. Neither chocolate nor vanilla.
38. Rose said, "All the school guards are policemen". Warren said, "That's not true". If Warren is right, then it must be that:
- a. at least one policeman is not a school guard.
  - b. at least one school guard is a policeman.
  - c. at least one school guard is not a policeman.
39. Ken said, "Of all the brick buildings in the world, this is the largest". Ned said, "It must be made of the world's biggest bricks".
- a. Ned's wrong: a big building can be made of big or small bricks.
  - b. Ned's right: big buildings are always made of big bricks.
  - c. Ned's wrong: big buildings are always made of small bricks.

40. Jeff said, "I'm not going to ride that bus. The driver is left-handed." Is this a good reason for Jeff not to ride the bus?
- a. Yes, because many right-handed people are good drivers.
  - b. No, because many left-handed people are good drivers.
  - c. Yes, because some left-handed people are poor drivers.
41. Marsha said, "The rooms in my school are small." Brenda said, "It must be a small school."
- a. Brenda's wrong: just because the rooms are small, the school need not be small.
  - b. Brenda's right.
  - c. Brenda's wrong: since the rooms are small, the school must be large.
42. Some of Sue's friends are not good dancers. Which statement must therefore be false?
- a. All of Sue's friends are good dancers.
  - b. None of Sue's friends are good dancers.
  - c. Some good dancers are not Sue's friends.
43. The Eagles have two outstanding volleyball players. The Rangers have no outstanding players. Therefore:
- a. the Eagles must be a better team than the Rangers.
  - b. the Eagles are at least as good a team as the Rangers.
  - c. you can't tell which team is better.
44. When Betsy said, "Some members of the class have visited the state capital," the teacher said Betsy was wrong. If the teacher was right, then it follows that:
- a. no members of the class visited the state capital.
  - b. some members of the class did not visit the state capital.
  - c. all members of the class visited the state capital.

45. The State Department of Health announced, "If the water has been treated, it's safe to drink." Since the water in our town has been found unsafe to drink, it follows that:
- a. the water was treated.
  - b. the water was not treated.
  - c. the treatment made the water unsafe.
46. If students rode the bus to school yesterday, they arrived late. Beth did not ride the bus to school yesterday. Therefore:
- a. Beth must have arrived late.
  - b. Beth could not have arrived late.
  - c. You cannot tell whether or not Beth arrived late.
47. Cindy said, "I was reading today about some people who drank water that accidentally contained rat poison. They got very sick."
- Ted said, "I'll bet what made them sick was the combination of rat poison and water".
- a. Ted's wrong: it was probably the water that made them sick.
  - b. Ted's wrong: it was probably the rat poison alone that made them sick.
  - c. Ted's right: it was probably the combination that made them sick.
48. Al said, "I love ice cream and I love pickles and I never got sick from eating either one before. But after eating a dipper of ice cream and a pickle last night, I got sick." The cause of Al's being sick was probably that:
- a. he ate the wrong kind of pickle.
  - b. he ate too much ice cream.
  - c. the combination of ice cream and pickles disagreed with him.

49. The band leader said, "Carl, you're out of step".

Carl wasn't sure what the band leader meant, because:

- a. he wondered whether "out of step" meant not marching in time with the music.
  - b. he wondered whether "out of step" meant not marching in time with the rest of the band.
  - c. he couldn't tell whether the band leader meant not marching in time with the music or not marching in time with the rest of the band.
50. Joyce's father works for the road department. If it snows, he has to work late. Last Tuesday he had to work late. Does that mean it snowed last Tuesday?
- a. Yes, it must have snowed.
  - b. You can't tell if it snowed or not.
  - c. No, it could not have snowed.