This passage is about sports.

1. What do snowboarding, base jumping, skydiving, downhill mountain biking, and hang gliding have in common? They are all considered “extreme” sports because they involve some degree of danger, and lots of excitement.

2. Many people choose these alternative sports over traditional options like soccer or tennis. Patrick, 25, started snowboarding when he was eight. He still feels he needs to be constantly on the edge. Catherine, 47, started bungee jumping a few years ago simply to add some variety to her life. Indeed, extreme sports, or alternative sports as others prefer to call them, attract people of all ages, including parents with their children. Paul, 35, enjoys skateboarding and mountain biking with his 10-year-old daughter. He says that skateboarding requires as much, if not more, training and skill as soccer, basketball, or boxing. Many parents like him feel that some of these sports create the perfect opportunity to teach children about safety, self-confidence and endurance, while engaging in new physical activities.

3. Undoubtedly, fear is a special component of these cool sports that attract young and mature audiences alike. However, according to experts, with the development of appropriate equipment that enables us to do sports safely, risk of injury can be reduced. Unfortunately, in most cases, safety equipment is expensive, raising the cost of participating. For example, a 30-second bungee jump may cost from $50 to over $300 in different parts of the world.

Reading and analyzing the text

The first reading task in the ECCE test consists of a short prose text followed by five multiple choice questions. Read the passage and do the activities that follow.

Understanding main ideas

All the information in a text relates directly to a main idea, whether it be the main idea of the text as a whole or the main idea in one paragraph. Identifying the main idea is key to good reading comprehension. There are questions that test your ability to recognize the main idea in a passage or in part of a passage.

For example, look at paragraph 1 – it gives examples of some sports and says that they are considered extreme sports as they may be dangerous and exciting. Therefore, the main idea of paragraph 1 is that extreme sports are dangerous and exciting.

1. Quickly skim the text to have an overall idea of the passage. Can you easily identify the main idea of the rest of the paragraphs?

   - Paragraph 2: Many people of different age groups take up extreme sports.
   - Paragraph 3: Alternative sports now have safety measures, which makes them costly.

Reading skills and strategies

Identifying key words

Identifying key words in the questions will help you find the correct information in the text. Question words like who, when, how long, how old, how many, and how much often ask about information that clearly stands out in the passage.

If a question asks about... In the passage look for...

- a name capitalized words until you find the name you need
- a date numbers, days and months (also capitalized), or years
- time time-related words like second, minute, hour, month, ago, yesterday, etc.
- price currency sign (e.g., $, £, €, etc.)

Quickly go over the passage and look for the information you need to answer the questions below. Write down the line(s) where you found the answer.

Who likes skateboarding?
Answer: Paul and his 10-year-old daughter
Line(s) 15-16

What examples of extreme sports are mentioned?
Answer: base jumping, skydiving, downhill mountain biking, hang gliding, snowboarding, bungee jumping
Line(s) 1-3, 8, 19

What examples of traditional sports are mentioned?
Answer: soccer, tennis, basketball, boxing
Line(s) 7

When did Catherine start bungee jumping?
Answer: a few years ago
Line(s) 11

How long does a bungee jump take?
Answer: 30 seconds
Line(s) 31

How old are Patrick and Catherine?
Answer: Patrick, 25
Catherine, 47
Line(s) 8, 10

How old is Paul’s daughter?
Answer: 10 years old
Line(s) 16

What sport does Patrick practice?
Answer: snowboarding
Line(s) 8

Why are extreme sports usually expensive?
Answer: because of the cost of the safety equipment
Line(s) 30

How much does it cost to go bungee jumping?
Answer: from $50 to over $300
Line(s) 32
3 According to the passage on page 10, decide if the following ideas are TRUE or FALSE based on information clearly stated in the passage.

- Alternative sports are perfectly appropriate for children.
- Everyone should try at least one kind of extreme sport in high school.
- Children should practice the sports that their parents have practiced.
- Everyone should investigate the risks involved before starting a new physical activity.

4 Look at the following items. Which of the options best describes the purpose of each paragraph of the passage on page 10?

1. The main purpose of paragraph 2 is to
   a. list people who practice new sports
   b. show examples of parents practicing alternative sports
   c. explain why people choose alternative sports
   d. explain how alternative sports were created
   e. teach children to play new sports

2. The main purpose of paragraph 3 is to
   a. explain why extreme sports are popular
   b. emphasize the need for safety when practicing new sports
   c. explain the role of safety measures in extreme sports
   d. mention how much bungee jumping costs
   e. illustrate why people are afraid of sports

5 Match each phrase taken from the text on page 10 to its meaning.

1. have in common (line 3) ____________ a.
2. choose sth over sth else (lines 6-7) ____________ b.
3. be on the edge (lines 9-10) ____________ c.
4. add variety (line 11) ____________ d.
5. attract young and mature audiences alike (lines 25-26) ____________ e.
6. create the perfect opportunity (line 20) ____________ f.

6 Decide if you agree or disagree with the following ideas, and say why:

1. Alternative sports are perfectly appropriate for children.
2. Everyone should try at least one kind of extreme sport in high school.
3. Children should practice the sports that their parents have practiced.
4. Everyone should investigate the risks involved before starting a new physical activity.

7 According to Paul, what is true about skateboarding?
   a. It’s easier than soccer.
   b. It does not require physical strength.
   c. It’s not expensive to do.
   d. It takes a lot of practice.

8 How can risks be reduced?
   a. by meeting with experts
   b. by training with an expert
   c. by using appropriate equipment
   d. by practicing in groups

9 What can be inferred about the writer of this passage?
   a. He has tried extreme sports in the past.
   b. He believes children should not take part in extreme sports.
   c. He thinks extreme sports are not worth the cost.
   d. He is in favor of extreme sports.
Section B: Reading Task 2

Reading and Analyzing the Text

The second task in the ECCE test consists of a set of four related texts followed by 10 multiple choice questions. Read the texts below and do the activities that follow.

4.1 Colorado

Silver Mountain Resort

The perfect place to go skiing and snowboarding in Colorado

Winter season: November 1 to March 31
Peak elevation: 12,300 ft.
Skiable area: 350 acres
Longest trail: 5.5 miles

Ski area hours: 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Half-day hours: 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
or 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Full-day tickets: $60
Half-day tickets: $45

Accommodations: hotels available within 5 miles, starting at $120 for double rooms.

No Snow This Winter?

By James Wright

Colorado Springs, CO: At this point we don’t know what to expect. During the last 50 years, our winters were characterized by perfect, soft, white snow. Our annual average snowfall ranged from 25 to 50 inches. Last year we had less than 10 inches of snow. And something similar happened all over the country. Last winter Vermont, Massachusetts, Philadelphia, and Montana had about 50% of the average snowfall of the last twenty years. The economy of our city depends on the weather. Our ski resorts, hotels, restaurants, sporting goods stores, to name a few, rely on the winter season to make ends meet. If we don’t attract tourists from all over the world, if we don’t have what tourists want in winter, we will need to find new alternatives to keep our beautiful city alive.

The City Council will soon schedule an open meeting with local residents and businesspeople to discuss what the city should do in response to changes produced by global warming. We should all be there. It’s time to start thinking about what we want for the future and to start making new plans.

4.2 The City of Colorado Springs

The Mayor of Colorado Springs, Ms. Alisha White, requests the honor of your presence at an open forum

August 1 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.
City Council Auditorium
1200 Main Street, Colorado Springs

The Presidents of the Colorado Hotel Association, the United Ski Resorts Association, and the mayor will present and award the best five initiatives received from city residents.

Each of the top five initiatives will get an award of $500,000 from the city to support the creation of new businesses and the development of alternative sources of income not dependent on snow.

There is still time to submit more initiatives. If you have an initiative to propose, submit it by e-mail to mayorinitiatives@springs.org by July 15.

4.3 New!! This summer throughout the months of June and July, we will have mountain biking races!

4.4 The Economy of our City

The economy of Colorado Springs, CO, depends on the weather. During the last 50 years, our winters have been characterized by perfect, soft, white snow. Our annual average snowfall ranged from 25 to 50 inches. Last year we had less than 10 inches of snow. And something similar happened all over the country. Last winter Vermont, Massachusetts, Philadelphia, and Montana had about 50% of the average snowfall of the last twenty years. The economy of our city depends on the weather. Our ski resorts, hotels, restaurants, sporting goods stores, to name a few, rely on the winter season to make ends meet. If we don’t attract tourists from all over the world, if we don’t have what tourists want in winter, we will need to find new alternatives to keep our beautiful city alive.

The City Council will soon schedule an open meeting with local residents and businesspeople to discuss what the city should do in response to changes produced by global warming. We should all be there. It’s time to start thinking about what we want for the future and to start making new plans.

5.0 Now it’s your turn to paraphrase ideas. How can you rewrite the following ideas using different words?

suggested answers

1. You are one of the applicants we are considering. You are one of the candidates we are thinking of hiring.

2. If you want this position, contact our secretary. If you are interested in this job, get in touch with our secretary.

3. We were impressed by your outstanding qualifications. We found your excellent qualifications impressive.

4. Half-day tickets are available. You can buy half-day tickets.

5. There is still time to submit more initiatives. There is still time to hand in more proposals.
Reading skills and strategies

**Identifying purpose**

In questions about purpose, there is always one correct option that summarizes the purpose of the section. The other options are either very general or too specific. You have to find the option that best summarizes the author’s purpose for the entire text.

3. Answer the following questions about the texts on page 14. Identify which options are too general and which ones are too specific to describe the purpose of the section.

1. What is the main purpose of section A?
   a. to publicize a resort’s opening hours
   b. to advertise a hotel
   c. to invite bikers to mountain bike races
   d. to advertise a holiday destination

2. What is the main purpose of section B?
   a. to encourage people to submit proposals
   b. to announce the date of an event
   c. to invite people to an award ceremony
   d. to invite residents to meet the mayor

3. What is the main purpose of section C?
   a. to explain why we get less snow
   b. to make readers think about possible changes
   c. to invite residents to an open meeting
   d. to predict what will happen in the future

4. What is the main purpose of section D?
   a. to enquire if a candidate is interested in a job
   b. to confirm a job offer
   c. to reject a job candidate
   d. to introduce Betty Davidson

4. Answer the following questions according to the information in the text. The questions refer to sections A, B, C, and D. Justify your answers by underlining the relevant parts in the text.

1. What will Mr. Wright probably be doing on August 1?
   - a. visiting Silver Mountain Resort
   - b. attending an open forum
   - c. interviewing for a job
   - d. writing a proposal

   The correct answer is b – attending an open forum. In section C, James Wright mentions in his article that all residents should attend the open meeting organized by the City Council. Details of this meeting are mentioned in section B. The date set for this open forum is August 1.

4. Identify which options are too general and which ones are too specific to invite the reader to contact somebody.

   a. sections A and C
   b. sections B and D
   c. sections C and D
   d. sections B and C

**FOCUS ON KEY VOCABULARY**

Match the two halves to make compound nouns.

1. city ________
   a. room
   b. forum

2. open ________
   a. warming
   b. manager

3. double ________
   a. skiing
   b. biking

4. general ________
   a. council
   b. manager

5. sporting ________
   a. forum
   b. council

6. mountain ________
   a. skiing
   b. biking

7. global ________
   a.论坛
   b. council

**INTERACTING WITH THE READING PASSAGE**

Imagine you were going to the open forum in Colorado Springs. What proposals would you make to the mayor to attract tourists to the town? Discuss with your partner and then present your ideas to the class.

1. What will happen at the open forum?
   - a. A dinner will be held.
   - b. The residents will present their initiatives.
   - c. Five residents will get cash awards.
   - d. The mayor will propose new initiatives.

2. How much would it cost to ski at the resort from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.?
   - a. $120
   - b. $90
   - c. $60
   - d. $45

3. What will happen during Mr. Addison’s visit to Silver Mountain Resort?
   - a. go skiing
   - b. teach snowboarding lessons
   - c. attend the mayor’s meeting
   - d. go mountain biking

**PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE**

Choose the best option to answer the following questions:

Questions 1-2 refer to section A on page 14.

1. What is the purpose of section A?
   - a. to advertise a resort
   - b. to announce a new activity
   - c. to advertise a hotel
   - d. to announce new prices

2. How much snow did Vermont get last winter?
   - a. equivalent to the annual average
   - b. more than expected
   - c. half of the annual average
   - d. more than in previous years

3. What will happen at the open forum?
   - a. A dinner will be held.
   - b. The residents will present their initiatives.
   - c. Five residents will get cash awards.
   - d. The mayor will propose new initiatives.

4. What is the main point of section C?
   - a. A city is undergoing an economic crisis.
   - b. Tourists are no longer interested in skiing vacations.
   - c. The mayor has agreed to have a meeting.
   - d. A way to attract more tourists should be found.

5. How much snow did Vermont get last winter?
   - a. equivalent to the annual average
   - b. more than expected
   - c. half of the annual average
   - d. more than in previous years

6. Why did Mr. Addison receive this e-mail?
   - a. He has been hired for a job.
   - b. His working conditions have changed.
   - c. He is being considered for a job.
   - d. He is being made redundant.

7. Which sections invite the reader to contact somebody?
   - a. sections A and C
   - b. sections B and D
   - c. sections C and D
   - d. sections B and C

8. What is the main point of section C?
   - a. A city is undergoing an economic crisis.
   - b. Tourists are no longer interested in skiing vacations.
   - c. The mayor has agreed to have a meeting.
   - d. A way to attract more tourists should be found.

9. How much snow did Vermont get last winter?
   - a. equivalent to the annual average
   - b. more than expected
   - c. half of the annual average
   - d. more than in previous years

10. Why did Mr. Addison receive this e-mail?
   - a. He has been hired for a job.
   - b. His working conditions have changed.
   - c. He is being considered for a job.
   - d. He is being made redundant.

**Question 7 refers to sections A, B, C, and D.**

Questions 4-5 refer to section C on page 14.

4. What is the main point of section C?
   - a. A city is undergoing an economic crisis.
   - b. Tourists are no longer interested in skiing vacations.
   - c. The mayor has agreed to have a meeting.
   - d. A way to attract more tourists should be found.

5. Why did Mr. Addison receive this e-mail?
   - a. He has been hired for a job.
   - b. His working conditions have changed.
   - c. He is being considered for a job.
   - d. He is being made redundant.
1 Work with a partner. Which of the following are important for you when choosing a sport? Why?

- athletic skill
- coach
- cost
- equipment
- friends
- fun
- risks
- safety
- sense of danger
- social status
- team
- time
- training
- uniform
- venue

Based on your partner’s answers, which sports would you recommend that he/she try?

2 Synonyms These words are from the texts on page 10 and 14. What do you think they mean? Match the words from the reading texts with their meanings.

1 mature i
2 undoubtedly d
3 significant g
4 appropriate b
5 endurance c
6 qualifications f
7 initiative e
8 constantly a
9 alternative h
10 component j

a all the time
b suitable
c strength
d certainly, without a doubt
e new idea, first step
f education, training
g important
h not traditional, different
i not young
j part

3 Meanings Circle T (true) or F (false) for each of the following sentences. Correct the false sentences.

1 If you have self-confidence you believe in yourself. T/F

2 If you have endurance, you get tired easily. T/F

3 If you engage in something, you do not participate in it. T/F

4 If you present an award, you win it. T/F

5 If you submit an assignment, you give it in to the teacher. T/F

6 If you propose something, you recommend it. T/F

7 If you schedule a meeting, you cancel it. T/F

8 If you appreciate something, you are thankful for it. T/F

9 If you estimate a cost, you calculate it. T/F

10 If you consider something, you think about it. T/F

4 Prepositions Fill in the correct prepositions.

1 My sister and I have nothing common with each other.
2 I decided to choose English lessons over Spanish as I thought it would be more useful for my career.
3 People of all ages will find the play entertaining.
4 Your success at work depends on your ability to work well as part of a team.
5 Jacob relies a lot on his family to support him. He really should get a job of his own.
6 Her angry outburst was really an estimation to the fact that she is having problems at home.
7 Gerry shows no interest in his studies and may have to repeat the year.
8 My family plans on relocating to the States next year.
9 There has been a drop in sales this season.
10 Our prices range from €10.00 to €50.00 per pair of shoes.

5 Derivatives The following words appeared in the texts in this unit. Place them in the correct column below and then fill in their other forms.

- consider 
- alternative 
- attract 
- considerate 
- confident 
- endure 
- develop 
- participate 
- analyze 
- respond 
- appreciate 
- proposed 
- submit 
- produce 
- application

Verb Adjective Noun
consider considerable / considerate consideration
alter / alternate alternative alteration
attract attractive attraction
confident confidence
endure endurable endurance
develop developed / developing development
participate participating participation
analyze analyzed analysis / analyst
create creative creation
depend dependent dependence
propose proposed proposal
submit submitted submission
produce productive production / productivity
respond responsive response
appreciate appreciative appreciation
impress impressive impression
instruct instructed instructor / instruction
apply applied applicant / application
schedule scheduled schedule
arrange arranged arrangement
recommend recommended recommendation
1 We had a serious and unexpected problem that required ______ measures.
   a available  b challenging  c obsolete  d extreme

2 The new 007 movie kept the audience ______ of their seats.
   a in the border  b on the edge  c at the cliff  d in the thrill

3 Taking up a sport or hobby is a good ______ to meet new people.
   a situation  b method  c chance  d possibility

4 Even though Tim and Tom are twins, they do not have ______ with each other.
   a in common  b in favor  c in response  d without a doubt

5 When I lost my job, I had to look for alternative ______ of income.
   a arrangements  b sources  c assignments  d components

6 The new coffee shop downtown mostly ______
   a young, trendy crowd.
   a enables  b engages  c introduces  d attracts

7 Contrary to popular belief, it’s not always cheaper to book ______ over the web when planning a holiday.
   a elevations  b initiatives  c premises  d accommodations

8 If you are interested in joining our team, please fill out ______ form and send it to us by e-mail.
   a a destination  b an application  c a reference  d an assignment

9 My husband and I were very ______ with the service we received at your hotel.
   a impressed  b characterized  c glad  d thankful

10 Everyone thought that Ian was very ______ for his age.
    a mature  b constant  c alike  d equivalent

11 Each employee has to work a four-hour ______ one weekend a month.
    a shift  b trail  c schedule  d arrangement

12 Not everyone knew that Jason had spent a ______ part of his life at the house by the lake.
    a suitable  b physical  c significant  d competitive

13 The quality of the food at the new Greek restaurant is ______.
    a upcoming  b outstanding  c reduced  d extreme

14 Many parents ______ specialized training sessions in order to provide home schooling to their kids.
    a attended  b awarded  c assigned  d arrived

15 She ______ on her parents for financial support until she managed to find a job.
    a relied  b endured  c involved  d recommended

16 The Grand Hotel is undergoing renovations so we will have to find a new ______ for our party.
    a area  b forum  c venue  d destination

17 I guess we can’t say that Jim is ______ by politeness and good manners.
    a awarded  b qualified  c accepted  d characterized

18 The students’ ages at this community college ______ from 20 to 85 years old.
    a confirm  b predict  c range  d rely

19 Smoking is not allowed on our ______; please put out your cigarette.
    a premises  b accommodations  c elevations  d hotels

20 I will be happy to ______ when you visit our town next month.
    a make ends meet  b be on the edge  c be made redundant  d show you around

21 Taking drama classes can help build ______ in shy children.
    a confidence  b qualification  c production  d endurance

22 After the accident, the school implemented new ______ procedures.
    a healthy  b arrangement  c safety  d consideration

23 We need to pick up the camping ______ that your uncle will lend us.
    a equipment  b income  c team  d skill

24 The winners will be announced in the ______ issue of our electronic newsletter.
    a previous  b upcoming  c enduring  d applied

25 I’m calling to ______ my booking for a double room on 25 March.
    a confirm  b advertise  c enquire  d reject