

ACT English Practice Test Questions:

In the following passage ten word, phrases, or sentences have been underlined and numbered. Select the appropriate alteration, or indicate that the underlined section is correct as written.

The Paleolithic period is the early¹ period of human development, as well as the longest. It is also commonly referred to as the Old Stone Age. It lasted from about 2 million years ago until between 40,000 and 10,000 years ago. Development during this period excruciatingly² slow. The Paleolithic period is usually divided into three sections:³ the Lower, Middle, and Upper. The Lower Paleolithic period is characterized by the appearance of stone tools; the chopping tools found at the Olduvai Gorge in Tanzania are from this period, and date back over a million years. They were probably made by Australopithecus, an ancestor of modern humans. Anthropologists have also found stone tools believed to have been made by Homo erectus between 100,000 and 500,000 years ago.

The Middle Paleolithic period occurred between 100,000 and 40,000 years ago. During this time, the Mousterian culture of Neanderthal men was active in Europe, North Africa, Palestine, and Siberia.⁴ These ancestors of modern man lived in caves and had the use of fire. They hunted prehistoric mammals, and had slightly sophisticated⁵ tools than their forebears, including crude needles for sewing⁶ furs together. These people may have practiced some sort of religion. In the Upper Paleolithic period, Neanderthals were replaced by varieties of Homo sapiens⁷, including Cro-Magnon man and Grimaldi man. A number of diverse cultures flourished during this period, and the first man-made shelters arose. This was also the period in which people first made jewelry and drawings on the walls of caves.

During the Upper Paleolithic period, hunters entered Europe from the east and conquered the more primitive cultures living their.⁸ These victorious hunters were known as the Solutreans. These people are noted for their fine spearheads, which they used to hunt wild horses. The Solutreans were in turn replaced by the Magdalenians, the most advanced phase of the Paleolithic period. The Magdalenians subsisted mainly through fishing and reindeer hunting. They developed extremely precise tools, and sophisticated weapons, like the atlatl;⁹ a device that made it possible to throw a spear over a great distance. Most of all, though, the Magdalenians are known for their cave paintings in modern-day France.¹⁰

1.
A: NO CHANGE
B: period is the earlier
C: period is the
D: period is the earliest
2.
A: NO CHANGE
B: period very excruciatingly
C: period were excruciatingly
D: period was excruciatingly
3.
A: NO CHANGE
B: three sections;
C: three Sections:
D: three sections
4.
A: NO CHANGE
B: Palestine and Siberia
C: palestine and siberia
D: Palestine; and Siberia.

5.
A: NO CHANGE
B: slightly more sophisticated
C: slightly were sophisticated
D: slightly, sophisticated

6.
A: NO CHANGE
B: four sewing
C: for sewing
D: fore sowing

7.
A: NO CHANGE
B: Homo sapiens
C: Homo sapiens
D: Homo Sapiens

8.
A: NO CHANGE
B: living there.
C: living here.
D: living theirs.

9.
A: NO CHANGE
B: atlatl
C: atlatl,
D: atlatl.

10.
A: NO CHANGE
B: modern-day France.
C: modern day France
D: modernday France.

ACT English Practice Test Questions Answer Key

1. D. The superlative form earliest is required to give sense to the sentence.
2. D. The verb is required here to make this a complete sentence.
3. A. The phrase is correct as written.
4. A. The phrase is correct as written.
5. B. The word more is required to indicate difference.
6. C. The appropriate word here is sewing.
7. B. A species name should have the first term capitalized and should be totally italicized.
8. B. The word there is required.

9. C. A comma gives the right break between these clauses.

10. B. The hyphenated form is correct.

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