

Introduction

You have been asked to take one or more of the Profiling for Success: Reasoning Tests. This leaflet:

- ◆ tells you more about the tests
- ◆ gives you a chance to have a go at some questions
- ◆ gives you some tips on taking the actual tests.

The tests you will be asked to take are:

- ◆ Verbal Reasoning
- ◆ Numerical Reasoning
- ◆ Abstract Reasoning

Verbal Reasoning

Instructions

The Verbal Reasoning test looks at your ability to think logically about written information. You will see passages of text, followed by statements relating to the text. You have to read each passage of text carefully and then decide whether each statement follows logically from the information in the passage. For each statement there are three answer options you can choose from: True, False or Can't tell.

True This means that, on the basis of the information in the passage, the statement is true or logically follows from the passage.

False This means that, on the basis of the information in the passage, the statement is false.

Can't tell This means that you cannot tell from the information in the passage whether the statement is true or false.

When deciding on whether a statement is true, false or you can't tell, it is important to base your answer only on the information in the passage and not on any other knowledge you may have. Your task is simply to judge whether or not the statement follows logically from the passage.

Have a look at the practice question below. The answer to the first statement is given. Try and work out the answers to the other three statements, and then check your answers against the explanations on the back page.

The word 'weather' is used to describe the day-to-day changes in our atmosphere. The source of these changes is the sun. As the Earth spins at an angle to the sun, areas around the equator get more heat from the sun than other areas. Land also absorbs more heat than the sea.

The atmosphere tries to equalise these differences in temperature, moving hot air that is near the equator to colder areas near the North and South Pole, and cool air to warmer areas. This movement of air is also affected by the spinning of the Earth and friction between the air and land. This process creates areas of high and low pressure in the atmosphere that result in the weather we experience on the ground.

1. Warm air tends to move towards the equator.

The answer to this question is False. The passage tells us that the atmosphere moves 'hot air that is near the equator to colder areas near the North and South Pole' and 'cool air to warmer areas'. Warmer air therefore moves away from the equator, not towards it.

2. The sea cools down more quickly than land.
3. The sun causes changes in the weather.
4. Areas of high pressure are more common around the equator.

Numerical Reasoning

Instructions

The Numerical Reasoning test looks at your ability to solve numerical problems. You will see some numerical information followed by questions that relate to the information. For each question you are given five possible answer options. You have to work out the correct answer from the information provided and then select this from the five options given.

Calculators are not allowed for the numerical test.

Have a look at the practice question below. The answer to the first question is given. Try and work out the answers to the other three questions, and then check your answers against the explanations on the back page.

The table shows the annual cost of breakdown cover with two motoring organisations.

Type of cover	Motoring Organisation	
	Blue Star	Green Arrow
Gold	£75	£90
Silver	£65	£60
Bronze	£40	£30

1. Three members of a family share equally the cost of Silver cover for one car with Green Arrow. How much does each person pay?

A. £20 B. £25 C. £30 D. £60 E. £180

The correct answer is £20. To answer this question you first have to find out how much Silver cover with Green Arrow costs. The table shows you that this is £60. To find the cost to each person, you have to divide £60 by 3. £60 divided equally between three people gives you the answer of £20.

2. There is a 10% discount if you take out breakdown cover for more than one car. What is the cost of having two cars with Green Arrow Bronze cover?

A. £46 B. £54 C. £60 D. £66 E. £72

3. What is the ratio of the cost of Silver cover with Green Arrow to Gold cover with Green Arrow?

A. 1:3 B. 2:3 C. 3:2 D. 2:1 E. 3:1

4. The cost of Bronze cover with Blue Star increases to £50. By what percentage has the cost of Bronze cover increased?

A. 10% B. 20% C. 25% D. 50% E. 125%

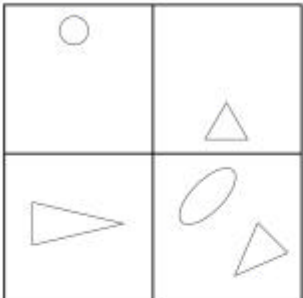
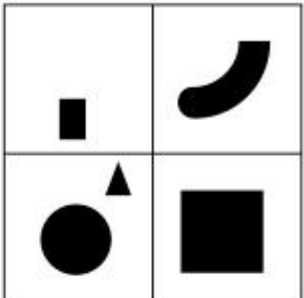

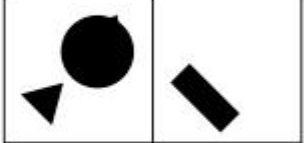
Abstract Reasoning


Instructions

The Abstract Reasoning test looks at your ability to identify relationships between shapes. This ability is related to testing out new ideas and solving problems.

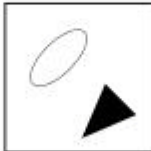
You will see two sets of shapes; 'Set A' and 'Set B'. All of the shapes in Set A are similar in some way, and all the shapes in Set B are similar in some way. Set A and Set B are not related to each other. You have to work out how the shapes in Set A are related to each other and how the shapes in Set B are related to each other. You then have to work out whether further shapes belong to Set A, Set B or Neither set.

Have a look at the practice question below. The answer to the first shape is given. Try and work out the answers to the other four shapes, and then check your answers against the explanations on the back page.

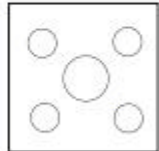
Set A		Set B	
			
			




1




2



3



4



5

The only common feature between the cells in Set A, is that they all contain white shapes. As some of the cells in Set A contain one shape, and others contain two shapes, the number of shapes in each cell does not matter.

Similarly for Set B, all the cells contain black shapes. Again, as some cells contain one shape and others contain two, the number of shapes in each cell does not matter.

The correct answer for shape 1 is Set A, as it contains a white shape.

Answers and explanations to the practice questions

Verbal

- The answer to this question is Can't tell. The passage tells us that 'Land also absorbs more heat than the sea'. It does not tell us anything about how quickly land and sea cools down. Although some people may know that land cools down more quickly than sea, this statement should not be answered 'False' as this information is not given in the passage. Remember, your answer should be based only on the information in the passage and not any other knowledge you have.
- The answer to this question is True. The first sentence tells us that "weather" is ...the day-to-day changes in our atmosphere'. The second sentence says that 'The source of these changes is the sun'. Therefore the statement is true from the information in the passage.
- The answer to this question is Can't tell. The passage states that the movement of air '... creates areas of high and low pressure ...'. It also tells us that areas around the equator tend to be warmer, and that warm air moves from the equator to cooler areas. However, the passage does not give any information about air pressure around the equator, so you cannot tell whether the statement is true or false.

Numerical

- The correct answer is £54. To get the answer you first have to find the cost of Bronze cover with Green Arrow from the table. The table shows you this is £30. The cost of covering two cars would therefore be £60 (2x£30), but the question also tells you that there is a 10% discount if you take out cover for more than one car.
To get the final cost, you need to find the discount (10% of £60), and subtract this from the total cost. To get 10% of £60, you need to divide £60 by 100 to get £0.6, and then multiply it by 10 to get 10% (£6). The total cost is therefore £60 - £6, which gives the answer £54.
- The correct answer is 2:3. To get the answer you need to find the highest number that will divide into the cost of Green Arrow Silver cover (£60) and Green Arrow Gold cover (£90). The highest number is 30, which divides into the cost of Silver cover twice (60/30=2) and the cost of Gold cover three times (90/30=3). This gives you the ratio of 2:3.
- The correct answer is 25%. To find the percentage increase you first have to find the actual increase in cost. The table tells you that the cost of Blue Star Bronze cover was £40. The question tells you this has increased to £50, giving an increase of £10 (the difference between £40 and £50). You then have to find what percentage of the original cost (£40) the increase is (£10), by dividing the increase by the original cost. £10 divided by £40 gives you 0.25. To turn this into a percentage, multiply the answer (0.25) by 100. This gives the answer of 25%.

Abstract

- The correct answer is Neither. As it contains one white and one black shape, it does not clearly belong to either set.
- The correct answer is Set A, as it contains white shapes. Although shape 3 contains five white shapes, more than any cells in Set A, it still conforms to the rules of Set A as the number of shapes is not part of the solution.
- The correct answer is Neither. As the shapes have both black and white parts to them, they do not clearly belong to either set.
- The correct answer is Set B, as this contains a black shape.

Some final tips on taking the tests

- ◆ Listen to and read the test instructions carefully. If you are unclear about anything, ask.
- ◆ You will be given time to read the instructions before the timed part of the test begins. Further examples and practice questions will be given to remind you of what you have to do. Work through these to make sure you are clear about what the test requires you to do.
- ◆ The tests are usually strictly timed, so it is important to work as quickly and as accurately as you can. If you are stuck on a question, do not waste time on it - go on to the next one and come back to it at the end if you have time.
- ◆ The best approach with multiple-choice questions is to try and work out the answer yourself, and then see if your answer is one of the given options. If your answer is not one of the given options, check your reasoning or calculations. If you are absolutely stuck, make an educated guess rather than picking an answer randomly. Try to eliminate answers you know to be wrong and then go with your best guess from the remaining options.
- ◆ Only change your answer if you are sure you have made a mistake. If you are unsure, it is probably best to stick with your first answer.