

Directions: *The SAT Reading test consists of five passages on a variety of topics. Each passage is followed by a series of 10 or 11 questions. Carefully read the passage that is provided and answer the multiple choice questions based on what is stated or implied. **The answers and explanations will be provided at the end of the test***

Questions 1–10 are based on the following passage.

The following passage is adapted from John F. Kennedy’s Inaugural address delivered Friday, January 20, 1961.

So let us begin a new remembering on both sides that civility is not a sign of weakness, and sincerity is always subject to proof. Let us never negotiate out of fear. But let us never fear to negotiate. And if a beachhead of cooperation may push back the jungle of suspicion, let both sides join in creating a new endeavor, not a new balance of power, but a new world of law, where the strong are just and the weak secure and the peace preserved.

All this will not be finished in the first one hundred days. Nor will it be finished in the first one thousand days, nor in the life of this Administration, nor even perhaps in our lifetime on this planet. But let us begin.

In your hands, my fellow citizens, more than mine, will rest the final success or failure of our course. Since this country was founded, each generation of Americans has been summoned to give testimony to its national loyalty. The graves of young Americans who answered the call to service surround the globe.

Now the trumpet summons us again; not as a call to bear arms, though arms we need; not as a call to battle, though embattled we are; but a call to bear the burden of a long twilight struggle, year in and year out,

“rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation”—a struggle against the common enemies of man: tyranny, poverty, disease and war itself. Can we forge against these enemies a grand and global alliance, North and South, East and West, that can assure a more fruitful life for all mankind? Will you join in that historic effort?

In the long history of the world, only a few generations have been granted the role of defending freedom in its hour of maximum danger. I do not shrink from this responsibility; I welcome it. I do not believe that any of us would exchange places with any other people or any other generation. The energy, the faith, the devotion which we bring to this endeavor will light our country and all who serve it—and the glow from that fire can truly light the world.

And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country. My fellow citizens of the world: ask not what America will do for you, but what together we can do for the freedom of man.

Finally, whether you are citizens of America or citizens of the world, ask of us here the same high standards of strength and sacrifice which we ask of you. With a good conscience our only sure reward, with history the final judge of our deeds, let us go forth to lead the land we love, asking His blessing and His help, but knowing that here on Earth God’s work must truly be our own.

Question 1

The central idea that Kennedy expresses in the speech is that Americans

- A are better off now than they have been in any other generation.
- B have lost their faith and should renew it.

- C are selfish and should do more for the benefit of mankind.
- D should defend freedom and fight tyranny.

Question 2

Kennedy uses the metaphor of a “beachhead” and “jungle” in the first paragraph mainly to

- A paint a visual presentation to entertain his audience.
- B emphasize the difficulty of the battle he wants people to fight in a memorable way.
- C compare politics to ecology.
- D suggest that jungles are more prevalent than beaches.

Question 3

The second paragraph serves mainly to

- A urge a call to arms.
- B set realistic expectations.
- C reveal criticism for the prior generation.
- D detail Kennedy’s own personal opinion.

Question 4

In paragraph 4, “common” most nearly means

- A universal.
- B ordinary.
- C unimportant.

D unnecessary.

Question 5

The question marks that end the final sentences of paragraph 4 have primarily which effect?

- A They invite the readers to see themselves as active participants in the fight against tyranny.
- B They are placed there to soften the message that Americans cannot independently fight wars.
- C They allude to the idea that some questions, such as how Americans should behave, have no concrete answers.
- D They help to criticize previous generations for leaving the work of freedom unfinished.

Question 6

According to Kennedy, which of the following is somewhat unique to this generation of Americans?

- A The opportunity to defend their freedom by fighting abroad.
- B Their ability to have a clean conscience.
- C The opportunity to defend freedom at a time when it is most severely threatened.
- D Their ability to fight tyranny.

Question 7

Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

(Use the left arrow below to go back and review the previous question.)

- A “Can we forge against these enemies a grand and global alliance, North and South, East and West, that can assure a more fruitful life for all mankind?”
(Paragraph 4, Sentence 2)

- B "In the long history of the world, only a few generations have been granted the role of defending freedom in its hour of maximum danger." (Paragraph 5, Sentence 1)
- C "I do not believe that any of us would exchange places with any other people or any other generation" (Paragraph 5, Sentence 3)
- D "My fellow citizens of the world: ask not what America will do for you, but what together we can do for the freedom of man." (Paragraph 6, Sentence 2)

Question 8

In paragraph 6, the use of the phrase "my fellow Americans" is likely intended to

- A unite the audience with Kennedy in a fight towards a common goal.
- B recruit the audience to vote for Kennedy for president.
- C to highlight the differences between Kennedy and the audience.
- D encourage the audience to join the military to fight for freedom.

Question 9

What idea does Kennedy mention in the final paragraph that is not discussed elsewhere in the passage?

- A Citizenship
- B The world outside America
- C Religion
- D Justice

Question 10

Overall, the tone of the passage can BEST be described as

- A logical and calculated.

- B emotional and esoteric.
- C desperate and intellectual.
- D moralistic and impassioned.