

SAMPLE PAGES

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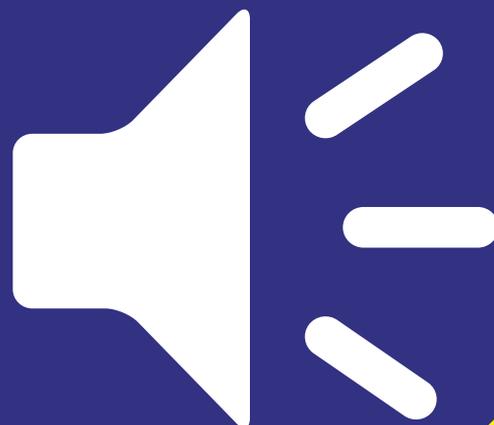


MM PRACTICE TESTS FOR THE TOEFL iBT® EXAM

with key

Additional features

- ✓ **A speaking appendix with extra speaking practice**
- ✓ **Learning strategies and useful tips preparing students for the exam**
- ✓ **Key and justifications for all reading and listening tasks**
- ✓ **Suggested answers to all speaking and writing tasks**
- ✓ **Listening transcripts**
- ✓ **A scoring section**



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DVD-ROM

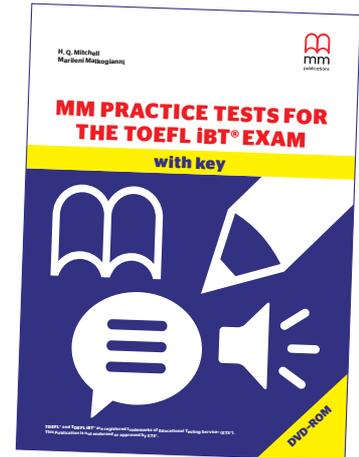


MM PRACTICE TESTS FOR THE TOEFL iBT® EXAM

This book includes six mini tests and two complete practice tests. It is accompanied by a DVD-ROM which includes:

- audio files (MP3) for mini tests 1–6 and complete practice tests 1 and 2
- complete practice tests 1 and 2 in **TOEFL iBT®** format for PC
- an interactive glossary
- animated videos demonstrating typical **TOEFL iBT®** questions and responses
- an additional complete practice test* in **TOEFL iBT®** format for PC (with key, justifications and suggested answers)

* There is also an **online version** of the additional complete practice test for PC, tablet and smartphone.



Practice Tests



DVD-ROM

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original passages on a variety of academic topics

Mini Test 1



READING SECTION PRACTICE SET

The development of photography

Photography is one of the most important scientific and technological **milestones** ever reached, and one that has changed the world forever. Since its arrival, photography has permeated all aspects of society, from journalism and advertising to art and recreation. It is described today as one of the most powerful media available when conveying a message. In creating a permanent record of the 20th century, it has allowed future generations to both understand and learn from past events. It has also facilitated education on current and foreign affairs while connecting the world on fundamental issues. Countless photographs have been credited for their role in influencing public opinion. Indeed, hard-hitting, moving images of famines, humanitarian crises and natural disasters have undoubtedly captured the attention of the world and planted the seeds for social change. Clearly, the impact of photography, since the first primitive attempts at capturing an image, has been profound.

The camera obscura, a device which had the capability to project an image directly onto a surface, was widely used by artists as far back as the Renaissance. It was used as a tool to assist them in creating more realistic and lifelike artwork. A lens inserted into the front of a box was used to focus on a particular object, the image of which was then projected. The artist was able to use this as a template, sketching around the outline in order to produce a more authentic representation of a specific scene or an object of interest. While the camera obscura encompassed the basic principles of photography, the chemical formula required for preserving the image was yet to be developed. It was not until the 1820s that photography advanced to the point where **this** became a reality. Around 1827, Frenchman Joseph Nicéphore Niépce produced the world's first permanent photograph, *View from the Window at Le Gras*. This was a huge triumph, especially considering that it required a staggering eight hours of exposure time for the image to form. Ironically, developments in this area were not well received by some in the art world. Artists were obviously unable to replicate an image, firstly, with as much accuracy and realism and, secondly, with quite so much speed. For some, this realization translated into a great deal of unease over how this innovation might affect demand for their services in the future.

Niépce worked in close **collaboration** with contemporary artist Louis Daguerre and together they succeeded in advancing the process of photography even further. Following the death of Niépce in the 1830s, Daguerre presented the "daguerreotype" to the world. This process produced a much clearer image and required significantly less exposure time compared to previous techniques. However, it was incapable of producing multiple copies of an image. The process involved applying iodine to a silver-plated copper sheet which was then inserted into the camera. This made the sheet sensitive to light.



Mini Test 1 | READING

The daguerreotype enjoyed huge popularity over the years and has been credited with having **paved the way** for technology in this area to develop.

During the 1850s, the invention of the wet-plate collodion process was a significant advancement. This method produced a glass negative of an image. This technology was far superior to all other previous photographic techniques for two main reasons: its ability to create an exceptionally detailed image, and its capacity to allow multiple copies of an image.

The wet-collodion process involved covering the photographic plate (the flat sheet which stored the photographic image) with a concoction of different chemicals, the main one being collodion. This solution ensured that the glass plate became photosensitive, which was necessary in order to capture the image. However, this method presented a major drawback. The plate had to be prepared just before exposure and the image developed immediately afterwards. Otherwise, when the collodion dried, it lost its sensitivity to light and was therefore unusable. The time frame for this was a mere ten minutes. Given the time constraints, the photographers of the day often worked under a great deal of pressure to complete the photographic process quickly. Since this had to be done without any delay, it was necessary for a photographer to forever carry a mobile darkroom in order to develop the final image.

In the 1870s, photography was revolutionized when a more convenient method was invented which allowed the plate to be exposed dry, as opposed to wet. This new dry-plate technology replaced the collodion solution with a gelatin emulsion. Unlike collodion, this gelatin emulsion remained light sensitive even after drying, allowing it to be prepared well in advance of exposure. Most importantly, this new development allowed photographers to abandon their mobile darkrooms and develop the image at a later stage. Consequently, photography became more convenient, and in turn more accessible, as earlier issues associated with wet-plate photography were eliminated.



a variety of reading passages falling under the three **TOEFL IBT®** classifications (Exposition, Argumentation, Historical)



typical **TOEFL iBT®** questions focusing on reading comprehension

Mini Test 1 | READING

INSTRUCTIONS

Choose the correct answer for each of the following questions.

1st paragraph

Vocabulary

1 Which of the following best expresses the meaning of the word **milestones**?

- devices
- tools
- achievements
- experiments

Inference

2 Which of the following can be inferred from the paragraph about photography?

- Its impact within society is immeasurable.
- It can be misleading as an educational tool.
- Its contribution to society does not receive the credit it deserves.
- It has created a historical record of the last three centuries.

Factual Information

3 According to the paragraph, public opinion can be influenced by photographic images because of their

- ability to capture detail.
- widespread use within photojournalism.
- powerful and emotive nature.
- success in highlighting global achievements.

questions organized by paragraph

2nd paragraph

Factual Information

4 According to the paragraph, which of the following is true of the camera **obscura**?

- It enabled artists to draw with greater precision.
- It was utilized by all artists during the Renaissance.
- It worked on the notion that chemicals were necessary to project an image.
- It was only able to project small objects.

Reference

5 The word **this** in the passage refers to

- the camera obscura
- the chemical formula for preserving an image
- the basic principle of photography
- an object of interest

stickers indicating question type in all mini tests

Mini Test 1 | READING 

4th paragraph

Insert Text

- 11 The four squares [■] in the paragraph below indicate where the following sentence can be added to the passage.

Therefore, photography was not practical in all settings, particularly in remote or mountainous environments that were accessible only on foot.

Choose your answer by circling the square where the sentence best fits.

During the 1850s, the invention of the wet-plate collodion process was a significant advancement. This method produced a glass negative of an image. This technology was far superior to all other previous photographic techniques for two main reasons: its ability to create an exceptionally detailed image, and its capacity to allow multiple copies of an image. The wet-collodion process involved covering the photographic plate (the flat sheet which stored the photographic image) with a concoction of different chemicals, the main one being collodion. This solution ensured that the glass plate became photosensitive, which was necessary in order to capture the image. However, this method presented a major drawback. ■ The plate had to be prepared just before exposure and the image developed immediately afterwards. ■ Otherwise, when the collodion dried, it lost its sensitivity to light and was therefore unusable. The time frame for this was a mere ten minutes. ■ Given the time constraints, the photographers of the day often worked under a great deal of pressure to complete the photographic process quickly. Since this had to be done without any delay, it was necessary for a photographer to forever carry a mobile darkroom in order to develop the final image. ■



INSTRUCTIONS

The following sentence introduces a summary of the reading passage. Complete the summary by selecting **THREE** of the answer choices below. Correct choices will express essential ideas from the passage, while incorrect choices may express unmentioned, contradictory or minor points.

This question is worth 2 points.

Prose
Summary

12 This passage describes the development and impact of photography.

•
•
•

Answer choices

- 1 Owing to its ability to capture events as they unfold, photography has influenced society tremendously.
- 2 The first photographic image produced was of extremely poor quality.
- 3 Scientific breakthroughs in chemistry facilitated much of the progress in photography.
- 4 Developments in early photography were received by artists with mixed feelings.
- 5 Color photography was a huge turning point in the history of photography.
- 6 When the dry-plate process was developed, photography became readily available to the public.

Scoring guide

Correct answers	3	2	0-1
My score	2	1	0

scoring guide for multiple-point questions indicating points assigned to each correct answer

Reading time :

Score yourself /8

15

self-assessment for completion after the section

Mini Test 1 | LISTENING

Questions 12–17

FOR THE AUDIO FILE, GO TO:
www.mmpublications.com/download/toefl.rar

listening materials falling under the two **TOEFL iBT®** classifications (lectures, conversations)



Gist-content

12 What is the main topic of the lecture?

- the challenges of entering the asteroid belt
- the science behind asteroid trajectories
- the potential threat asteroids pose to Earth
- the discovery of the asteroid Ceres

Detail

13 What is the asteroid belt?

- the area in space which contains the orbits of Mars and Jupiter
- the area in space which is free of small asteroids
- the area in space home to mainly larger asteroids
- the area in space in which most asteroids are located

Making Inferences

14 Listen to this extract from the lecture and answer the question that follows.

What does the professor imply about the demise of the dinosaurs?

- There are no reliable theories to explain their mass extinction.
- There is more than one theory to explain their mass extinction.
- There is uncertainty around why they became extinct.
- They may have been wiped out by an asteroid hitting Earth.



a variety of listening question types designed according to the specifications of the **TOEFL iBT®** exam

Understanding
Function

15 Listen to this extract from the lecture and answer the question that follows.

Why does the professor say this?

- to highlight the extent of damage that an asteroid colliding with Earth could cause
- to reassure the class that an asteroid collision is not about to happen
- to emphasize the inevitability of an asteroid hitting Earth in the future
- to stress the importance of research into asteroid detection

Detail

16 According to the professor, what is one way that human intervention can affect an asteroid's trajectory?

- It can push an asteroid back to an earlier point in its journey.
- It can redirect the course of an asteroid.
- It can stop the trajectory completely by destroying the asteroid en route.
- It can alter the speed at which an asteroid is traveling.

Understanding
Speaker's Attitude

17 What is the professor's opinion about the future for asteroid deflection strategies?

- He remains cautious when expressing his opinion.
- He thinks it is unlikely that an asteroid can ever be deflected.
- He is concerned that asteroid deflection strategies are purely theoretical.
- He is very optimistic about the future for asteroid deflection.

Score yourself /19



a selection of speaking activities taken from **TOEFL iBT®** speaking questions 1–6

Mini Test 1 | SPEAKING

SPEAKING SECTION PRACTICE QUESTIONS

This part of the Mini Test focuses on questions 1, 3 and 6 of the complete **TOEFL iBT®** exam.

question type 1:
independent speaking question on a familiar topic

1 (Question 1)

You will be asked a question on a familiar topic. You will have 15 seconds to prepare your response, and 45 seconds to present it.

Describe your favorite season of the year and what you enjoy doing in this season. Explain why you prefer it to the other seasons.

Preparation time: 15 seconds Response time: 45 seconds

FOR THE AUDIO FILE, GO TO:
www.mmpublications.com/download/toefl.rar

2 (Question 3)

You will read a short passage and listen to a conversation on the same topic. Then you will be asked a question. You will have 30 seconds to prepare your response, and 60 seconds to present it.

Reading time: 45 seconds

Cafeteria Renovation

The Winston Cafeteria of Rowland College will undergo a series of renovations over the next three months. The work is being undertaken in the hope of ensuring the building's future by bringing the iconic cafeteria into the 21st century – meeting the needs of today's students while safeguarding the features that have always made it a favorite hangout. The new cafeteria will offer international cuisine and feature an entertainment center, a concert area with state-of-the-art acoustics and many more renovations. Unfortunately, for this reason, the cafeteria will be shut for the next three months. Its reopening is scheduled for July 10, with a new menu but a minor upward change in its prices.

question type 3:
integrated reading/listening/speaking question on a campus-related topic



What opinion does the woman express about the cafeteria renovation? What reasons does she provide to justify her opinion?



Preparation time: **30 seconds**



Response time: **60 seconds**

WRITING SECTION PRACTICE TASK

This part of the Mini Test focuses on the independent writing task from the complete **TOEFL iBT®** exam.

Writing based on Knowledge and Experience

INSTRUCTIONS

This task asks you to present, explain and support your ideas on the question below. You have 30 minutes to write your essay, which should be a minimum of 300 words.



A friend wishes to purchase a gift for his brother who is graduating from college. He has enough money to purchase a new cell phone or a gift voucher for an experience, such as horseback riding, a hot-air balloon ride, etc. He is of two minds and has asked for your advice as to which one he should choose. Compare the two options and explain which choice you think is better.

Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.



Response time: **30 minutes**

a task taken from the two **TOEFL iBT®** writing question types (integrated/independent)

extras

speaking appendix including suggested answer outlines and extra practice for the independent speaking questions

Speaking Appendix

Read the question below and look at the sample outline provided. How would you present these notes as a response?

Describe a friend whom you particularly admire and explain what you admire about this person. Use reasons and details to support your response.

Preparation time: 15 seconds

1. Introduce

- my best friend

2. Describe

- laid-back character
- good at dealing with pressure

3. Justify

- admire how he can deal with stress during exam period
- for example, helped me deal with exam stress last year

Now, using your own knowledge and experience, answer the same question by completing the outline below.

Describe a friend whom you particularly admire and explain what you admire about this person. Use reasons and details to support your response.

Preparation time: 15 seconds

1. Introduce

• _____

2. Describe

• _____

• _____

3. Justify

• _____

• _____

Look at your notes above and record your response.

Response time: 45 seconds

**extras**

Tips

This section provides a variety of tips and strategies which correspond to the types of questions in the **TOEFL iBT®** exam. These types are labeled in Mini Tests 1–6 to help you identify and familiarize yourself with their format.

Reading Tips

You will probably not remember every detail from your first reading of the passage. You can refer back to the passage in order to make sure you understand what exactly is said about the subject of a question.

Factual Information questions

- Rule out options that present information that is false or not mentioned in the passage.
- Do not choose an answer just because it is mentioned in the passage. Make sure your choice answers the question being asked.

Negative Factual Information questions

- Remember that the correct answer for these types of questions will be the one that either contradicts information in the passage or is not mentioned in the passage at all.

Inference questions

- Avoid choosing an answer only on the basis that it appears to be important or true. Remember that you should be able to infer the correct answer from the passage.
- Explicitly stated information in the passage should back up or justify the inference you have selected.

Rhetorical Purpose questions

- These questions usually focus on logical links between contextual information and syntactical structures. They do not ask you how the reading passage is organized overall. Possible answers commonly include phrases such as *in order to explain/illustrate/contradict/criticize*, etc.

Vocabulary questions

- Keep in mind that the question is asking you to decide on the meaning of the word as it is used in the passage, not just for the definition of a word. Therefore, do not choose an answer just because it can be a correct meaning of the word; figure out which meaning the author is using in the passage.
- When you have made your choice, read the sentence in the passage again, replacing the word or phrase with the one you have chosen. Make sure that the sentence still makes sense in the context of the passage.

practical tips helping candidates identify question types and familiarize themselves with **TOEFL iBT®** questions



extras

Scoring Section

CONVERSION TABLES: Complete Tests 1 & 2

Complete Test 1			
Reading		Listening	
Raw score	TOEFL® equivalent	Raw score	TOEFL® equivalent
44	30	38	30
43	29	37	29
42	29	36	28
41	28	35	28
40	27	34	27
39	27	33	26
38	26	32	25
37	25	31	24
36	25	30	24
35	24	29	23
34	23	28	22
33	23	27	21
32	22	26	21
31	21	25	20
30	20	24	19
29	20	23	18
28	19	22	17
27	18	21	17
26	18	20	16
25	17	19	15
24	16	18	14
23	16	17	13
22	15	16	13
21	14	15	12
20	14	14	11
19	13	13	10
18	12	12	9
17	12	11	9
16	11	10	8
15	10	9	7
14	10	8	6
13	9	7	6
12	8	6	5
11	8	5	4
10	7	4	3
9	6	3	2
8	5	2	2
7	5	1	1
6	4	0	0
5	3		
4	3		
3	2		
2	1		
1	1		
0	0		

a scoring section with tables showing **TOEFL iBT®** equivalents of test scores

**extras**

Key & Justifications

MINI TEST 1 ANSWER EXPLANATIONS

READING SECTION The development of photography

- 1 **3** This is a Vocabulary question. The correct answer is choice 3; the meaning can be understood from the use of the term *milestones* to encompass things which have “changed the world forever.” Thus, the meaning is clearly very positive, and is best reflected by the word “achievements.”
- 2 **1** This is an Inference question. The correct answer is choice 1; throughout the paragraph, the author emphasizes the importance of photography, and its relevance to society is apparent from the reference to it permeating “all aspects of society, from journalism and advertising to art and recreation.” Its impact is further emphasized, as the author goes on to discuss its roles in educating and connecting people, influencing public opinion, and stirring public emotion. There is no implication that photography is misleading as an educational tool (choice 2), and it is specifically said to have “facilitated education.” The author states that “[photography] is described today as one of the most powerful media,” implying that, contrary to choice 3, it does receive the credit it deserves. The paragraph also refers to photography “creating a permanent record of the 20th century” – by which we can understand that it was not available in earlier centuries and could not have created a record of three centuries (choice 4).
- 3 **3** This is a Factual Information question. Support for the statement that photography influences public opinion is found in the example of “hard-hitting, moving images” which have “planted the seeds for social change.” It is the “powerful and emotive nature” of these images which is emphasized as being key; therefore, choice 3 is the correct answer. It is not suggested that the detail of the photographs is influential (choice 1), nor that it is their widespread use (choice 2) that is important. Choice 4 is incorrect as there is no reference to global achievements at any point.
- 4 **1** This is a Factual Information question. The correct answer is choice 1; the author explains that the camera obscura was used to project an image for artists to sketch around, enabling them to produce “a more authentic representation.” Choice 2 is incorrect, as the author uses the phrase “widely used” to indicate the prevalence of the camera obscura, thereby suggesting, however, that not all artists used it. The description of the process does not mention chemicals (choice 3), and it is not stated that it could only project certain sizes of objects (choice 4).
- 5 **2** This is a Reference question. The word *this* refers to “the chemical formula for preserving an image,” which is mentioned in the previous sentence, and is described in the relevant sentence as being finally developed in the 1820s. The correct answer, therefore, is choice 2.
-
- 11 **4** This is an Insert Text question. The sentence provided, “Therefore, photography was not practical in all settings, particularly in remote or mountainous environments that were accessible only on foot,” is best inserted at square 4. The inserted sentence constitutes a summarizing point, commenting on information that has been previously presented. The sentence before square 4 concludes by mentioning that photographers had to carry a great deal of equipment with them; in terms of topic development, this point serves as a logical precursor to the conclusion reached in the inserted sentence.
- 12 **1 3 6** This is a Prose Summary question. It is completed correctly below. The correct choices are 1, 3 and 6. Choices 2, 4 and 5 are incorrect.
- This passage describes the development and impact of photography.*

key to all questions

**extras****KEY | MINI TEST 1**

- **1** Owing to its ability to capture events as they unfold, photography has influenced society tremendously.
- **3** Scientific breakthroughs in chemistry facilitated much of the progress in photography.
- **6** When the dry-plate process was developed, photography became readily available to the public.

Correct choices

Choice 1: “Owing to its ability to capture events as they unfold, photography has influenced society tremendously” can be considered a summation of the first paragraph and, consequently, a major idea within the passage as a whole.

Choice 3: “Scientific breakthroughs in chemistry facilitated much of the progress in photography” is clear throughout the passage from the description of each new development, from the iodine and silver-plated copper that is described as part of the daguerreotype process in paragraph 3 and the chemical concoction mentioned as being used in wet-plate photography (paragraph 4), to the gelatin emulsion described in paragraph 5 as part of the dry-plate process.

Choice 6: “When the dry-plate process was developed, photography became readily available to the public” is a main point expressed in the final paragraph, and alludes to the future development of photography and its popularity. It can, therefore, be considered a key stage in the development of photography and should be included in a summary.

Incorrect choices

Choice 2: “The first photographic image produced was of extremely poor quality” is not a point mentioned in the passage. The first photograph is discussed in paragraph 2, but there is no comment on its quality.

Choice 4: “Developments in early photography were received by artists with mixed feelings” is a point conveyed in paragraph 2. It is, however, a digression from the main topic, and can be considered a minor idea in the passage as a whole.

Choice 5: “Color photography was a huge turning point in the history of photography” is clearly incorrect, as color photography is not mentioned at any point in the passage.

LISTENING SECTION  **questions 12–17**

- 12** **3** This is a Gist-content question. After briefly talking about the size and composition of asteroids, the professor moves on to discuss the risks of asteroid collision with Earth. The majority of the extract focuses on this topic, making choice 3 the correct answer. The asteroid belt is mentioned briefly at the beginning of the extract, but there is no discussion of entering it (choice 1). Choice 2 is also incorrect, as the professor does not explain the science behind trajectories. The asteroid Ceres (choice 4) is given as an example of a particularly large asteroid, but the lecture does not focus on this point.
- 13** **4** This is a Detail question. The asteroid belt is defined very clearly as the area where the majority of asteroids can be found, making choice 4 the correct answer. It is located between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter, but does not include them – so choice 1 is incorrect. As there is no indication that asteroids within the belt are of any particular size, choices 2 and 3 are also both incorrect.
- 14** **4** This is a Making Inferences question. You are first asked to listen to this part of the lecture:

justifications for answers to reading
and listening sections

219

**extras****KEY | MINI TEST 1**

Can you imagine if one the size of Ceres, or even bigger, smashed into a major city or densely populated area? The damage caused would be unimaginable. After all ... we're all familiar with the popular theory out there to explain the mass extinction of the dinosaurs.

The reference to the mass extinction of the dinosaurs comes immediately after speculation on the damage that would be caused by an asteroid collision. From the context, it can therefore be understood that the "popular theory" that the professor refers to revolves around a similar collision. Thus, choice 4 is the correct answer. Choice 1 is incorrect, as no judgment is passed on the reliability of any theory. While there may be more than one theory (choice 2), this is not specified, nor is it relevant to the professor's point – and the same is true of choice 3.

- 15** **2** This is an Understanding The Function of What Is Said question. You are first asked to listen to this part of the lecture:

Rest assured, though, class, while it's not totally inconceivable that a massive asteroid will hit Earth one day, this eventuality is exceedingly remote.

The professor is clearly reassuring the students that an asteroid collision is extremely unlikely. Choice 2 is the correct answer. He is not emphasizing the damage (choice 1) or the inevitability (choice 3) of such a collision. Choice 4 is also incorrect, as this particular section of the lecture does not refer to research.

- 16** **2** This is a Detail question. The correct answer is choice 2; the professor describes a strategy to draw an asteroid off its path, using the gravitational field of a probe. This would effectively redirect its course. Choice 1 is therefore incorrect, as the change in trajectory would alter the asteroid's path going forward, rather than pushing it back to an earlier point. Before he discusses this option, the professor first presents one which is not viable – namely, destroying the asteroid (choice 3). There is no reference to changing an asteroid's speed (choice 4).

- 17** **4** This is an Understanding the Speaker's Attitude question. Choice 4 is the correct answer; the professor mentions that he personally feels the future is "very bright indeed." Such a categorical statement suggests that he is not cautious about expressing his opinion (choice 1), and choices 2 and 3 express variations of an opinion which opposes that held by the professor.

SPEAKING SECTION **Suggested answers**

- 1 Describe your favorite season of the year and what you enjoy doing in this season. Explain why you prefer it to the other seasons.**

I know that most people prefer summer ... but ... to be honest ... I've always preferred the winter months. The main reason for this is that I absolutely love hiking. I'm from a country that experiences very, very hot summers, which means that hiking is simply not possible during the summer months. More or less every weekend during the winter, my friends and I go hiking somewhere for the day ... you see, I live in a very mountainous region of the country, and there are many designated paths where hikers can enjoy a walk. It really is exhilarating ... making it to the top of a mountain peak ... the view is breathtaking, especially when it's been snowing.

- 2 What opinion does the woman express about the cafeteria renovation? What reasons does she provide to justify her opinion?**

The college cafeteria is soon to be renovated ... the renovations will be very modern ... the college even plans to include a concert area and an entertainment center ... the aim is to enhance student social life. Aside from that, the food menu will receive a makeover to include a much wider range of foods from all around the world ... thereby offering much more choice to students. The woman recognizes that, once

suggested answers for all speaking questions

**extras**

KEY | MINI TEST 1

the changes have been completed, the end result will, of course, be great ... but, in general, she doesn't think that it's a good idea to use funds in this way, not when other things, which are more important, also need attention. She feels that the money could be spent on more useful things, such as the library or lab facilities, or perhaps the gym, which should take priority over student social life. Secondly, she's concerned about the price increase on the food menu ... explaining that students shouldn't be expected to pay any more for food served in a student cafeteria. Even though the college has said that the increase won't be large, it's still unacceptable to her to charge the students more ... even if it's only a small increase, it's still too much. On top of that, while the renovation is being carried out, the cafeteria will be closed for around three months ... during this time, she'll have no choice but to go to another coffee shop, which will be more expensive.

WRITING SECTION Writing based on Knowledge and Experience (Independent)

A friend wishes to purchase a gift for his brother who is graduating from college. He has enough money to purchase a new cell phone or a gift voucher for an experience, such as horseback riding, a hot-air balloon ride, etc. He is of two minds and has asked for your advice as to which one he should choose. Compare the two options and explain which choice you think is better.

Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Model answer

Giving someone a gift can be a very gratifying experience. That is, of course, once you have passed the stages of fretting about what to buy, where to find what you are looking for, how much to spend and whether the person you are buying the gift for will be happy with the choice you have made. The truth is, however, that there is no universal quick-fix gift that is suitable for everyone. This means that finding a suitable gift requires not only money but also time, effort and thought. Nevertheless, if a friend asked for my advice as to whether he should buy his brother a cell phone or a gift voucher for an experience, I would recommend that he chose the gift voucher. I am of the opinion that no item, regardless of how well-chosen and expensive it may be, can be compared to a direct experience of something novel and mentally, physically or emotionally stimulating.

No doubt, a cell phone is a very nice gift and most people would be more than happy to receive one. It meets two criteria – those of convenience and functionality – which we take into serious consideration when contemplating the suitability of a gift. It is a practical, multi-functional tool that constitutes an indispensable necessity, and without which an overwhelming majority of us could not envision our lives. It fits comfortably into our hectic modern-day lifestyle and facilitates our everyday activities. Nevertheless, it is an item that we tend to take very much for granted; we take it as given that we will have one, and current availability makes replacing it with a newer model practically and economically feasible. For this reason, the excitement of acquiring a cell phone would, very likely, soon wear off.

In contrast, a gift experience, which can be anything from a ride in a hot-air balloon to a face-to-face tutorial with a professional tennis player, will have a lasting effect on a person. This is because a unique experience creates memories that people can cherish for the rest of their lives. If chosen well, the experience can even be life-enhancing in that it may fulfill a lifelong desire, which would not have been possible under normal circumstances – not necessarily because of the cost but because of how we tend to prioritize our needs. A novel experience may even have a powerful and life-altering effect by introducing the recipient to an activity which may awaken interest in different ways, unlock inherent potential and lead to self-discovery and personal growth. For instance, a gift voucher for a cooking course may result in someone choosing a career as a chef. To my mind, the intrinsic value of an experience far outweighs the value that any item, regardless of price and significance, can possibly have.

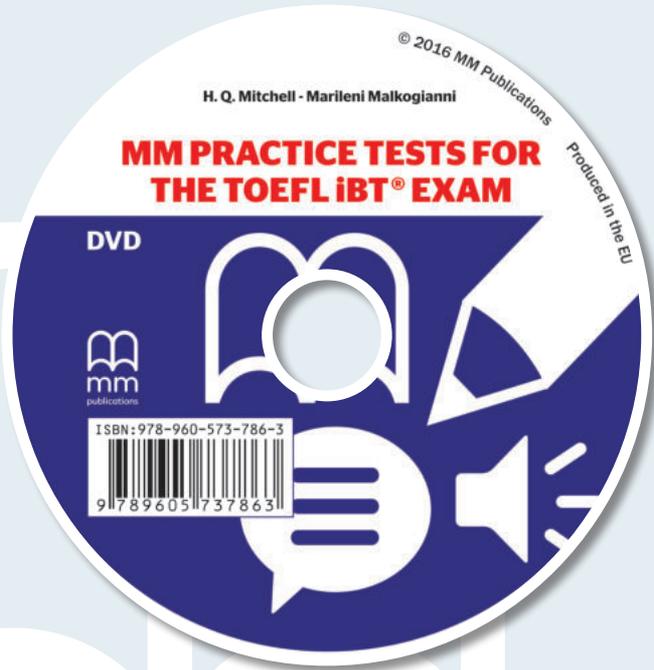
model
answers for
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**GLOSSARY****MM PRACTICE TESTS FOR THE TOEFL iBT® EXAM**

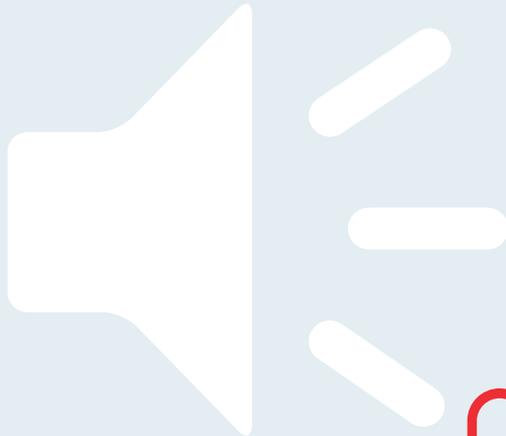
Words	Part of speech	Definitions	Example Sentences
absorb	(v.)	to take sth in	<i>My skin absorbed the cream, which didn't leave any trace of oiliness.</i>
development	(n.)	growth; evolution	<i>The level of communication in the world today is an indication of the development of technology.</i>
photography	(n.)	the art of taking photos using a camera	<i>Antony works as an editor for a photography magazine.</i>
scientific	(adj.)	having to do with science	<i>The fields of technology and medicine can only develop as long as scientific research continues.</i>
technological	(adj.)	having to do with technology	<i>We plan to continue taking advantage of technological innovations to increase the efficiency of our services.</i>
reach a milestone		to achieve sth. that marks a new era	<i>Technology reached another milestone with the invention of the smartphone.</i>
arrival	(n.)	appearance; introduction	<i>The arrival of the Internet opened up a whole new world of communication possibilities.</i>
permeate	(v.)	to enter gradually	<i>The smell of cooking from the kitchen permeated the whole house.</i>
journalism	(n.)	the job of collecting news and analyzing and investigating stories of interest	<i>He was determined to pursue a career in journalism despite the fierce competition in the field.</i>
recreation	(n.)	enjoyment; entertainment	<i>Cycling is one of the healthiest and most affordable types of recreation.</i>
convey a message		to communicate with sb (with or without words)	<i>The purpose of an advertisement is to convey a message about a product or service to the public.</i>
permanent	(adj.)	lasting for a long time or forever	<i>He has a permanent job as a bank clerk.</i>
record	(n.)	information and data collected over time	<i>The doctor asked to see the medical record of the patient in order to get a better picture of his condition.</i>
century	(n.)	100 years	<i>John F. Kennedy was one of the most famous politicians of the twentieth century.</i>
generation	(n.)	all the people born around the same time in history	<i>The ethos of today's generation tends not to value the traditional family.</i>
facilitate	(v.)	to make easier	<i>Teaching aids are designed to facilitate the learning process.</i>
current affairs		political or social developments that are happening at the present time	<i>It is easy to learn about current affairs from online newspapers.</i>

glossary including advanced vocabulary from the tests, along with definitions, example sentences and audio recordings of each word for pronunciation purposes

SAMPLE PAGES



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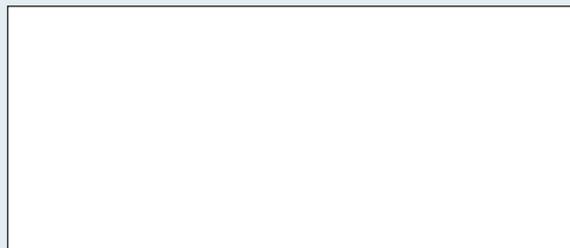


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