

ACT ENGLISH DIAGNOSTIC TEST

LONG FORM

45 Minutes—75 Questions

PASSAGE I


Summer Crabbing

While the winters of my childhood on the southern coast of New Jersey were somewhat cold and dreary, the summer was like someone in<sup>1</sup> paradise. I lived only two blocks from the ocean


and, despite the crowds that came<sup>2</sup> with the warm weather, the summer months on the beach and in


the water will always be<sup>3</sup> a time of tremendous fun for me.


My grandparents lived near us on a lagoon and were typical of many more<sup>4</sup> shore natives in that they owned a boat, which they docked right outside their back door. It was always a joyous day for my family when the boat was lowered into the water, signaling the beginning of summer. We all knew at that moment that we'd enjoy ahead of us<sup>5</sup> twelve weeks of boat rides, fishing trips, and, my favorite pastime, crabbing.


1. A. NO CHANGE  
B. summer was  
C. summers were like someone in   
D. summers were

2. The writer would like to indicate that she understands why visitors crowded the New Jersey coast every summer. Given that all the choices are true, which one best accomplishes the writer's goal?

- F. NO CHANGE  
G. the amazing crowds that arrived   
H. the crowds that naturally came  
J. the large crowds that swarmed the area

3. A. NO CHANGE  
B. were always   
C. are always  
D. can always be

4. F. NO CHANGE  
G. of many   
H. mostly of  
J. for most







5. A. NO CHANGE   
B. in our future  
C. the forthcoming  
D. OMIT the underlined portion.

Crabbing is a difficult hobby, it required<sup>6</sup>  
more skill than simple fishing. Catching crabs<sup>6</sup>  
requires physical skill, along with patience,  
diligence, and timing. Even after years of crabbing  
with my grandfather, I still made critical, and  
sometimes humorous, mistakes. 7

One July afternoon when I was fourteen, we  
set out on the boat to crab in the bay. We docked  
close enough to the reeds to reach out and touch  
them. I gently brushed<sup>8</sup> them with my fingers as  
my grandfather lowered the anchor. After putting  
raw chicken legs onto the hooks at the end of the  
crab lines, we threw them into the water, waiting,  
for a bite from below.<sup>9</sup>

An eternity passed before our first line went  
taught, indicating that a crab had latched onto the  
bait. 10 My grandfather quickly grabbed the line

and then slowly began pulling it up toward the  
surface of the water.<sup>11</sup>

6. F. NO CHANGE  
G. it requires more skill   
H. requiring more skill  
J. more skillful
7. The writer is considering deleting the preceding sentence. Should this sentence be kept or deleted?  
A. Kept, because it emphasizes that crabbing is a difficult pastime.  
B. Kept, because it serves as a good transition to the remainder of the essay.   
C. Deleted, because the difficulties of crabbing have already been discussed.  
D. Deleted, because it is irrelevant to the essay's focus on non-commercial crabbing.
8. F. NO CHANGE  
G. stooped to brush them with gentleness   
H. leaned over to gently brush  
J. gently leaned over to brush
9. A. NO CHANGE  
B. water, waiting for a bite,   
C. water, before waiting for a bite:  
D. water and waited for a bite
10. Given that all are true, which of the following additions to the preceding sentence (replacing "bait") would be most appropriate?  
F. baits of raw meat that we had attached   
G. hooked on bait of raw chicken meats  
H. bait on one of the hooks  
J. raw chicken-leg bait my grandfather and I had attached while I was on his boat in the bay
11. All of the following alternatives to the underlined portion are acceptable EXCEPT:  
A. up.  
B. up to the surface.   
C. toward the surface.  
D. up the surface.