

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 in¹ paradise. I lived only two blocks from the ocean

and, despite the crowds that came² with the warm weather, the summer months on the beach and in

the water will always be³ a time of tremendous fun for me.

My grandparents lived near us on a lagoon and were typical of many more⁴ 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 us⁵ 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 required⁶
more skill than simple fishing. Catching crabs⁶
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 brushed⁸ 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.⁹

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.¹¹

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.