



Victorian Fire Services Written Selection Test Tutorial and Practice Question Guide



Victorian Fire Services Written Selection Test Tutorial and Practice Questions

1. Introduction

The computer based Victorian Fire Services Written Selection Test (WST) is in multiple-choice format, and comprises the following core subjects:

- Abstract reasoning – measures your ability to identify and complete sequences and patterns
 - 20 minutes duration and 25 test items
- Numerical Sequences – measures your ability to recognise relationships among numbers to determine the pattern and come up with the next logical number in the sequence.
 - 20 minutes duration and 25 test items
- Verbal reasoning – measures how well you understand and interpret written passages
 - 20 minutes duration and 25 test items
- Mechanical comprehension - measures your ability to understand basic functioning of mechanical devices
 - 25 minutes duration and 55 test items

Each core subject of the test is individually timed. Once you end a core subject, or it times out, you will not be able to return to that subject. At the start of each core subject is a 1 minute introduction which provides directions and information about the subject.

At the beginning of the test is a non-disclosure agreement (NDA), which you must accept within 5 minutes. If you do not accept the NDA within 5 minutes or choose not to accept the NDA your test will terminate and you won't be able to continue with the test.

Following the NDA is a 10 minute tutorial which provides an overview of how to navigate within the test environment on the computer and also provides one practice question for each of the core subjects.

This WST tutorial and practice questions guide provides you with:

- an overview of how to navigate within the computer based testing environment
- Four practice items, one for each section of the Written Selection Test.

2. Navigation Tutorial

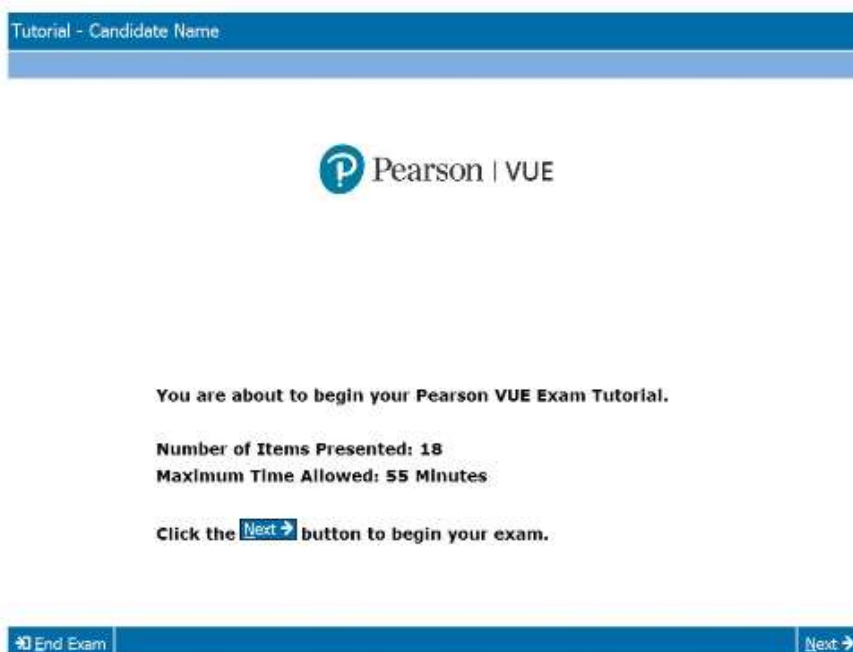
The Victorian Fire Services Written Selection Test is a computer based, multiple-choice exam.

The following pages show you how to navigate around the test environment so you can familiarise with the functionality provided to best manage your exam.

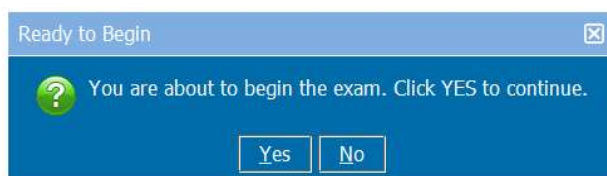
Beginning an Exam

The number of display screens and the type of information presented may vary by exam, so be sure to read all the information carefully and proceed as instructed. Some exams allow you to back up and view a screen you've already seen. Click the **Previous** button to move back one screen.

Certain parts of the exam may be timed. You will be told when you are beginning a timed section, so read the directions carefully.



Before you begin an exam, you may be asked to confirm that you are ready to begin. Clicking the **No** button will return you to the previous screen. Clicking the **Yes** button will begin the exam.

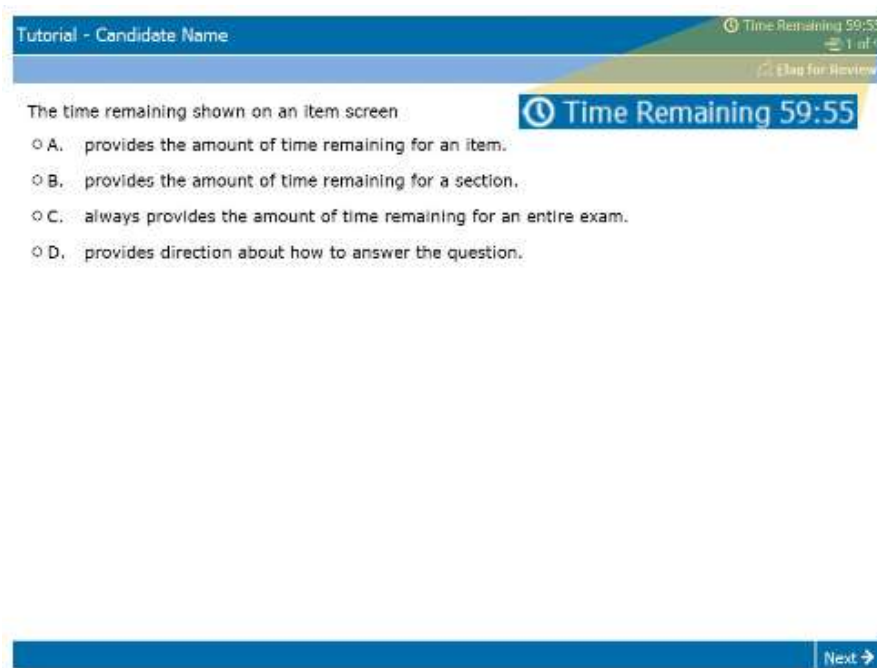


Time Remaining

At any point in a timed section, you can see how much time you have remaining for that section in the upper right hand corner of the screen. If you don't want to view the time remaining during an exam, click on the clock icon to hide the time remaining.

A message will appear at designated times during a timed section to remind you of the time remaining for that section. When there is less than five minutes remaining for an exam section, the time remaining will be displayed in yellow as a warning that time is about to expire.

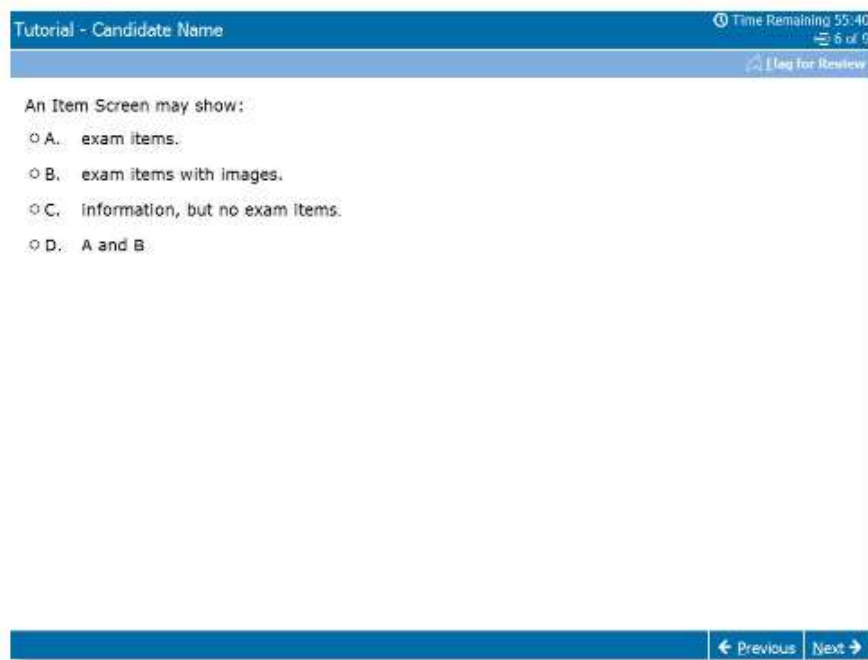
When time expires, a warning message appears. Click OK to close the warning message. The current section will end and the next section of the exam will be displayed automatically.



Item Screens

Once you begin an exam, “Item Screens” containing items you must answer will be displayed. The name of the exam as well as your name will be displayed in the top left corner of the exam.

On every screen of your exam, read all of the information carefully and proceed as instructed.



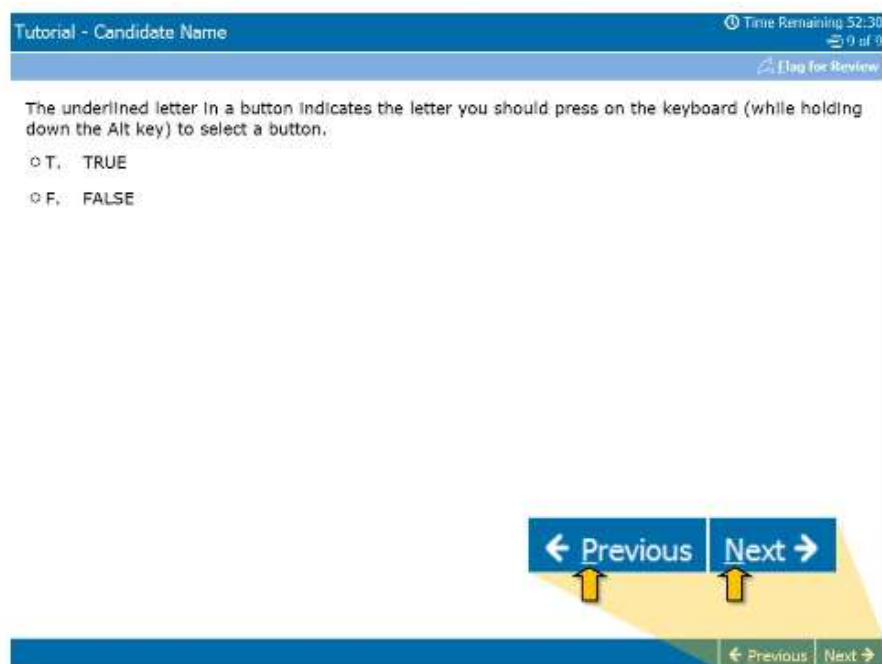
The screenshot shows a web-based exam interface. At the top, a blue header bar contains the text "Tutorial - Candidate Name" on the left and "Time Remaining 55:40" on the right. Below the header, a light blue bar contains a "Flag for Review" button. The main content area is white and contains the text "An Item Screen may show:" followed by four radio button options: A. exam items., B. exam items with images., C. information, but no exam items., and D. A and B. At the bottom, a blue bar contains "Previous" and "Next" buttons with arrows.

Navigation

Notice the **Previous** and **Next** buttons on the bottom edge of this screen. These buttons will be available on most screens throughout your exam. The **Next** button moves you from this screen to the next screen. Some exams allow you to back up and view a screen you've already seen. Click the **Previous** button to move back one screen.

Buttons can be selected by using either the mouse or a combination of keys on your keyboard. For example, to select the **Next** button, you can press the **N** key on your keypad while holding down the **Alt** key.

Note: The letter underlined on a button indicates the letter you will press (while holding down the Alt key) to select that button.



Flag for Review

Some exams may allow you to flag items that you want to return to later. To flag an item, click the button in the upper right corner labelled “Flag for Review”. If you flag an item for review, a flag will appear next to that item on the review screen.

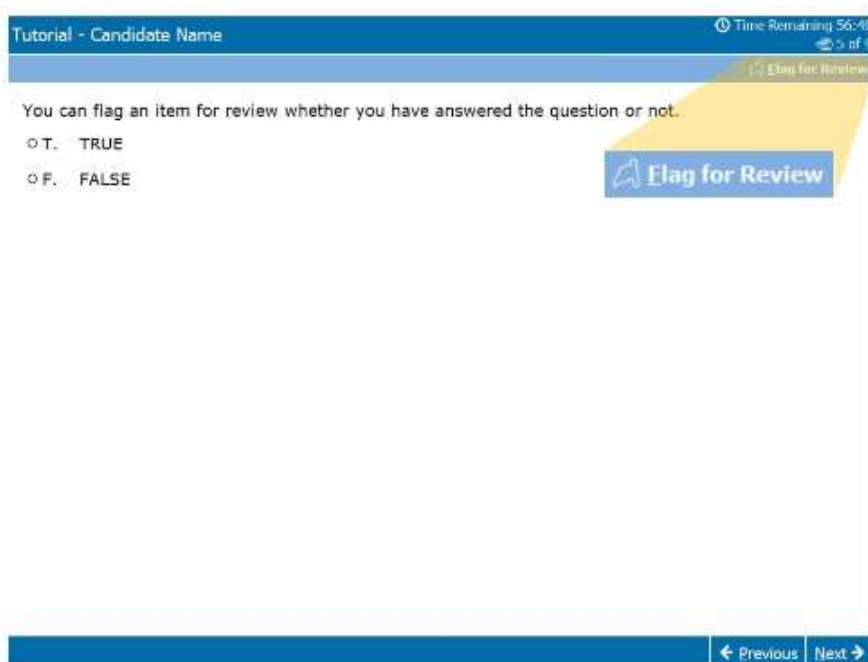
Review of items must be done during the testing time. You can select items for review whether you have answered them or not.

To flag an item for review:

- Use the mouse to move the pointer to the **Flag for Review** button and then click the LEFT mouse button.
- Or use your keyboard by holding down the **Alt** key and pressing the letter **F**.

A flag image will appear within the flag outline when the item has been flagged for review. If you wish to unflag the item, click on the Flag for Review button again and the flag image will disappear.

When you reach the last item in a section, press the **Next** button to move to the Review Screen.

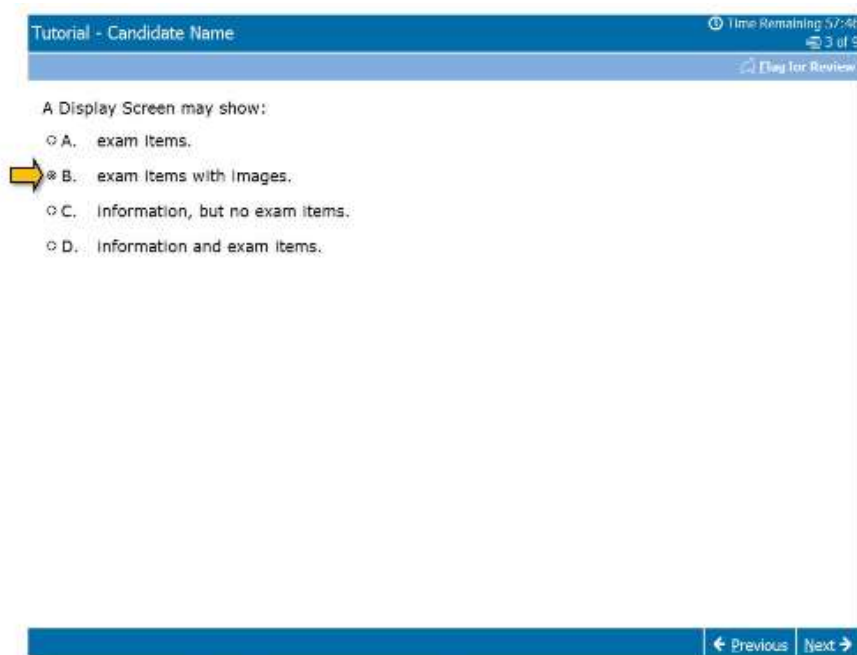


Answering Multiple Choice Items

There are several ways to mark your answer to a multiple choice item. You may be able to select an answer by clicking on the circle to the left of the answer or by clicking on the answer itself.

Some exams may allow you to answer an item by selecting an answer's corresponding letter or number – this can be done with the mouse or by using the keyboard.

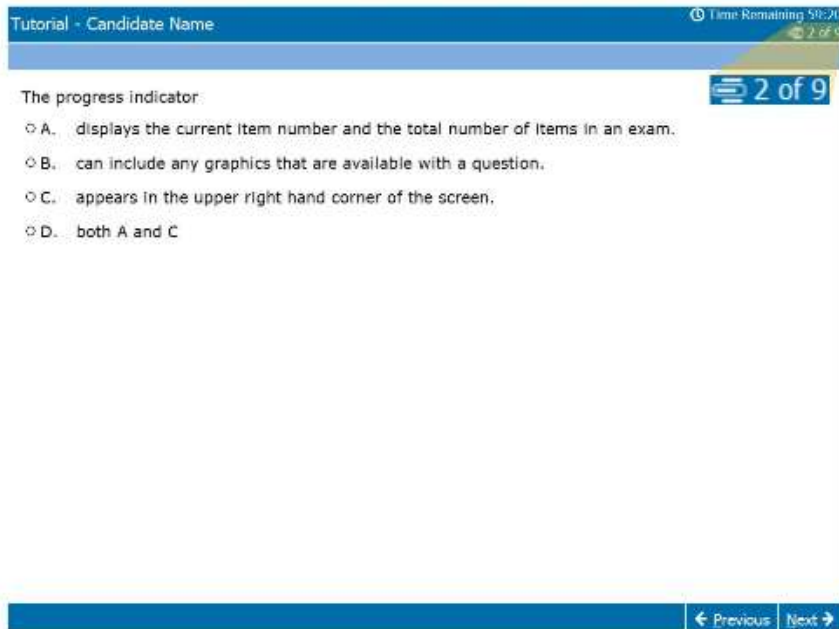
Clicking on an answer you have already selected will remove the selection and leave it as unanswered.



The screenshot shows a digital exam interface. At the top, a blue header bar contains the text "Tutorial - Candidate Name" on the left, a clock icon and "Time Remaining: 57:46" on the right, and a "Flag for Review" button. Below the header, the question text reads "A Display Screen may show:". There are four radio button options: "A. exam items.", "B. exam items with images.", "C. Information, but no exam items.", and "D. Information and exam items.". Option B is selected, indicated by a yellow arrow pointing to the radio button and a small asterisk next to the text. At the bottom of the interface, there is a blue bar with "Previous" and "Next" navigation buttons.

Progress Indicator

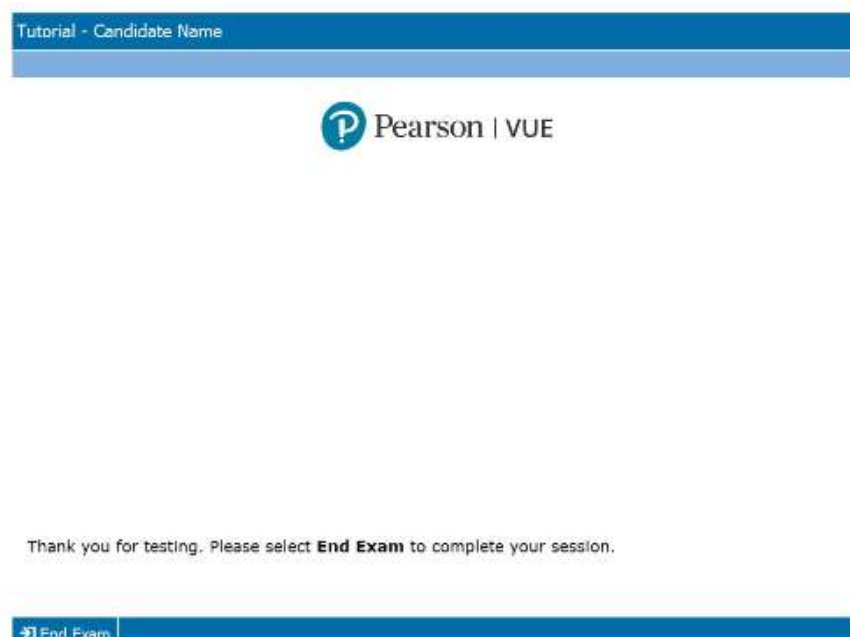
As you navigate through an exam, you can pace yourself by referring to the progress indicator in the upper right corner of the screen. The progress indicator includes the current item number and may include the total number of items in the section. The progress indicator can be collapsed and expanded by clicking on the progress indicator icon.



Ending the Exam

When all sections of an exam have been completed, click the **"End Exam"** button to end the exam.

You won't get a result on the day. Victorian Fire Services will provide your result after the exam period ends.



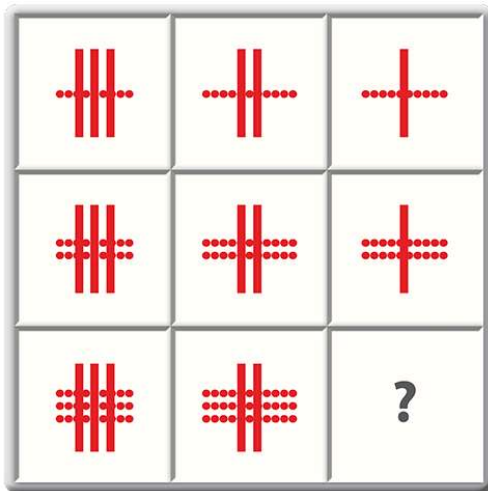
3. Practice Items

Practice Item 1 – Abstract Reasoning

Directions

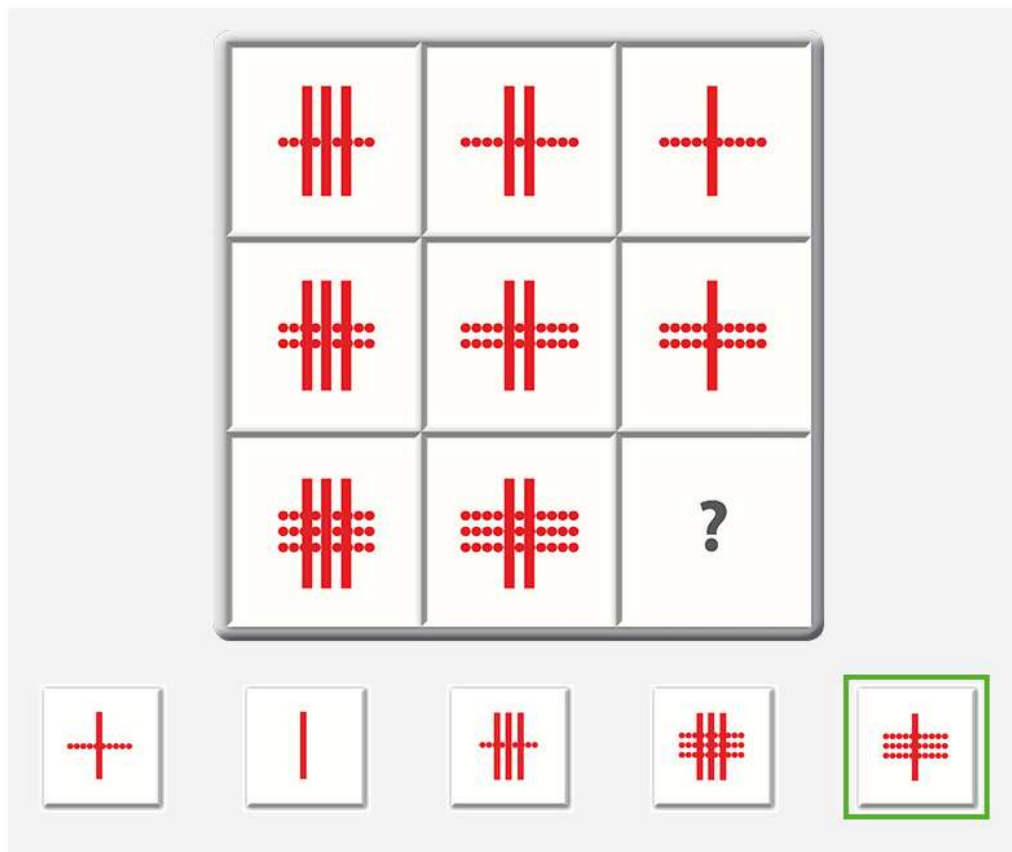
The first section of the test is Abstract Reasoning, which measures observation skills and clear thinking ability.

For each item there is a piece missing in the pattern. Your task is to click on the piece that correctly completes the pattern. To solve the items, look across each row and down each column of the pattern to find the missing piece. The correct answer matches the pattern going across the row and down the column.



- ☐
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐

Practice Item 1 – Abstract Reasoning: Answer



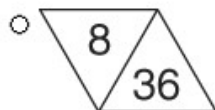
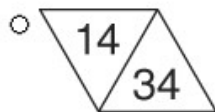
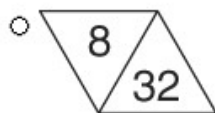
Number 5 is the correct answer because it is the only piece that correctly completes the pattern going across the row and down the column. Numbers 1 and 2 complete the pattern of one solid line going down the column, but do not complete the pattern of three dotted lines going across the row. Number 4 correctly completes the pattern of three dotted lines going across the row, but does not complete the pattern of one solid line going down the column. Number three does not complete the pattern of three dotted lines going across the row, and does not complete the pattern of one solid line going down the column. Number 5 is the only answer that works going across the row and down the column.

Practice Item 2 – Numerical Sequences

Directions

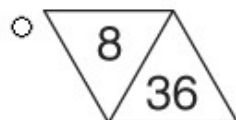
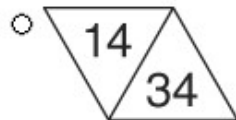
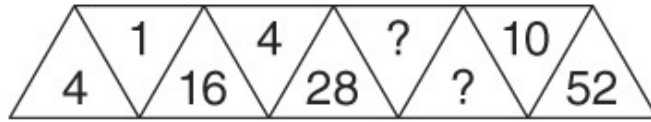
The second section of the test is Numerical Sequences, which is intended to measure your ability to recognise relationships among numbers to determine the pattern and come up with the next logical number in the sequence. You are provided with numerical sequences that follow a logical rule based on elementary arithmetic. All questions are in the form of grids, in which one or two values are missing. Missing numbers are represented by question marks. You must recognise the relationships among the numbers to deduce the missing numbers from the six possible answers. Sometimes two numbers are missing and you have to find them both.

Please select the correct response



Practice Item 2 – Numerical Sequences: Answer

The numbers in the top row form a sequence that increases by three ($1 + 3 = 4$, $4 + 3 = 7$). The numbers in the bottom row are obtained by multiplying the numbers in the top row by four (for example, $1 \times 4 = 4$, $4 \times 4 = 16$). Therefore, the missing numbers are 7 in the top row and 40 in the bottom row. The correct answer is, therefore, the fifth option.



Practice Item 3 – Verbal Reasoning

Directions

The third section of the Written Selection Test is Verbal Reasoning. Each item in this section has the first and last word left out. You are to pick out words that will fill the blanks so that the sentence will be true and sensible.

For each sentence you are to choose from among five pairs of words to fill the blanks. The first word of the pair you choose goes in the blank space at the beginning of the sentence; the second word of the pair goes in the blank at the end of the sentence. When you have picked the pair to fill in the blanks, click on the circle that corresponds with the correct answer.

Please select the correct response

..... is to one as second is to

- ☐ two — middle
- ☐ first — fire
- ☐ queen — hill
- ☐ first — two
- ☐ rain — fire

Practice Item 3 – Verbal Reasoning: Answer

..... is to one as second is to

- ☐ two — middle
- ☐ first — fire
- ☐ queen — hill
- ☒ first — two
- ☐ rain — fire

First is to one as second is to **two**. **First** fits in the blank at the beginning of the sentence, and **two** belongs in the blank at the end, so **first – two** is the correct answer.

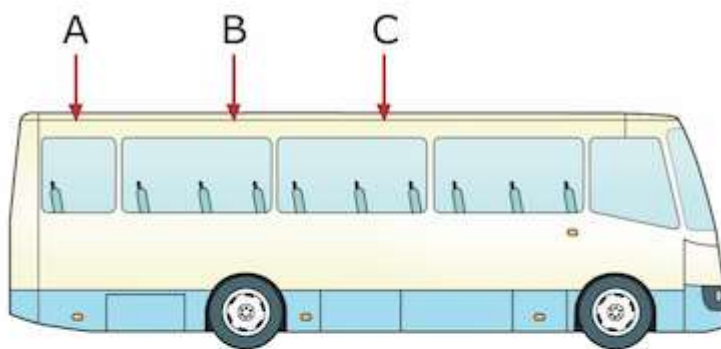
Practice Item 4 – Mechanical Comprehension**Directions**

The fourth and final section of the Written Selection Test is Mechanical Comprehension. This section measures your ability to apply basic mechanical and physical principles to solve issues and problems.

For each item there are images representing different categories of mechanical comprehension. Your task is to click on the answer that is correct to each situation.

Please select the correct response.

Which letter shows the seat where a passenger will get the smoothest ride?



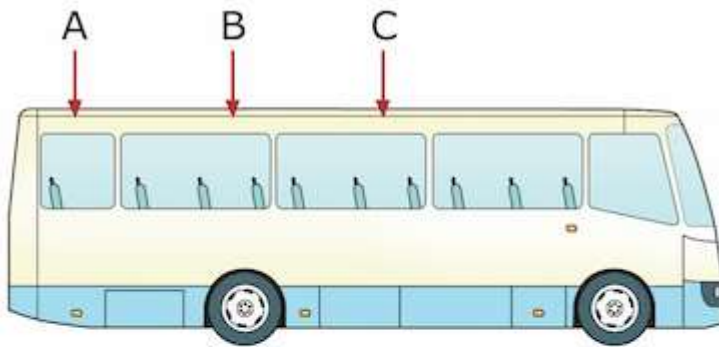
☐ A

☐ B

☐ C

Practice Item 4 – Mechanical Comprehension: Answer

Which letter shows the seat where a passenger will get the smoothest ride?



- ☐ A
- ☐ B
- ☒ C

Study the drawing. Note that the letter “C” is between the two supporting wheels, so the passenger sitting at “C” will get the smoothest ride. You would select “C” for this example.