

Va-era Literacy Test

You are entitled to vote at TBE by our bylaws. We just want to be sure you are up to the task, so we've prepared a little test... you must get ALL of them correct.

You will find the answers on pp. 351-368 of the Humash. Good luck!

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- 1) HOW MANY OF THE 10 PLAGUES ARE MENTIONED IN THIS PORTION?
 - 2) WHAT NEW NAME OF GOD IS PRESENTED TO MOSES IN THIS PORTION?
 - 3) NAME THE SONS OF KOHATH
 - 4) WHICH ONE OF THESE IS ALSO A CITY IN ISRAEL?
 - 5) WHAT WAS THE AGE OF MOSES AT THE ONSET OF THE PLAGUES?
 - 6) HOW ABOUT AARON?
 - 7) WHEN MOSES CAST DOWN HIS ROD, WHAT DID IT BECOME?
 - 8) WAS IT ACTUALLY MOSES - OR WAS IT AARON - WHO CAST DOWN THE ROD?
(P. 358)
 - 9) WHAT WAS THE FIRST PLAGUE?
 - 10) TRICK QUESTION: WHEN IS A FISH ALSO A CHICKEN? (SEE 7:21)
 - 11) WHAT WAS THE FOURTH PLAGUE?
 - 12) WHERE IS THE ONLY LOCATION WHERE HAIL DIDN'T FALL?
 - 13) WHAT BOOK IS TODAY'S HAFTORAH FROM?

The State of Louisiana

Literacy Test (This test is to be given to anyone who cannot prove a fifth grade education.)

Do what you are told to do in each statement, nothing more, nothing less. Be careful as one wrong answer denotes failure of the test. You have 10 minutes to complete the test.

1. Draw a line around the number or letter of this sentence.
2. Draw a line under the last word in this line.
3. Cross out the longest word in this line.
4. Draw a line around the shortest word in this line.
5. Circle the first, first letter of the alphabet in this line.
6. In the space below draw three circles, one inside (engulfed by) the other.

7. Above the letter X make a small cross.

8. Draw a line through the letter below that comes earliest in the alphabet.

Z V S B D M K I T P H C

9. Draw a line through the two letters below that come last in the alphabet.

Z V B D M K T P H S Y C

10. In the first circle below write the last letter of the first word beginning with "L".



11. Cross out the number necessary, when making the number below one million.

10000000000

12. Draw a line from circle 2 to circle 5 that will pass below circle 2 and above circle 4.



13. In the line below cross out each number that is more than 20 but less than 30.

31 16 48 29 53 47 22 37 98 26 20 25

14. Draw a line under the first letter after "h" and draw a line through the second letter after "j".

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q

15. In the space below, write the word "noise" backwards and place a dot over what would be its second letter should it have been written forward.

16. Draw a triangle with a blackened circle that overlaps only its left corner.

17. Look at the line of numbers below, and place on the blank, the number that should come next.

2 4 8 16 ____

18. Look at the line of numbers below, and place on the blank, the number that should come next.

3 6 9 ____ 15

19. Draw in the space below, a square with a triangle in it, and within that same triangle draw a circle with a black dot in it.

20. Spell backwards, forwards.

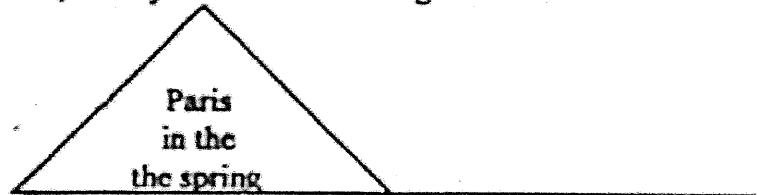
21. Print the word vote upside down, but in the correct order.

22. Place a cross over the tenth letter in this line, a line under the first space in this sentence, and circle around the last the in the second line of this sentence.

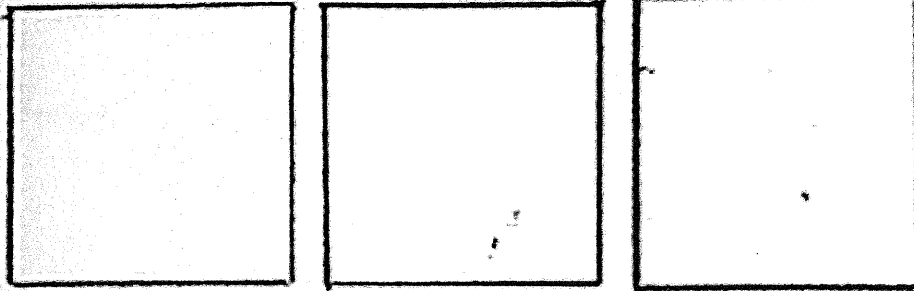
23. Draw a figure that is square in shape. Divide it in half by drawing a straight line from its northeast corner to its southwest corner, and then divide it once more by drawing a broken line from the middle of its western side to the middle of its eastern side.

24. Print a word that looks the same whether it is printed frontwards or backwards.

25. Write down on the line provided, what you read in the triangle below:



26. In the third square below, write the second letter of the fourth word.



27. Write right from the left to the right as you see it spelled here.

28. Divide a vertical line in two equal parts by bisecting it with a curved horizontal line that is only straight at its spot bisection of the vertical.

29. Write every other word in this first line and print every third word in same line, (original type smaller and first line ended at comma) but capitalize the fifth word that you write.

30. Draw five circles that one common inter-locking part.

1965 Alabama Literacy Test

1. Which of the following is a right guaranteed by the Bill of Rights?
☐ Public Education
☐ Employment
☐ Trial by Jury
☐ Voting
2. The federal census of population is taken every five years.
☐ True ☐ False
3. If a person is indicted for a crime, name two rights which he has.

4. A U.S. senator elected at the general election in November takes office the following year on what date?

5. A President elected at the general election in November takes office the following year on what date?

6. Which definition applies to the word "amendment?"
☐ Proposed change, as in a Constitution
☐ Make of peace between nationals at war
☐ A part of the government
7. A person appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court is appointed for a term of _____
8. When the Constitution was approved by the original colonies, how many states had to ratify it in order for it to be in effect? _____
9. Does enumeration affect the income tax levied on citizens in various states? _____
10. Person opposed to swearing in an oath may say, instead:
(solemnly) _____
11. To serve as President of the United States, a person must have attained:
☐ 25 years of age
☐ 35 years of age
☐ 40 years of age
☐ 45 years of age
12. What words are required by law to be on all coins and paper currency of the U.S.?

13. The Supreme Court is the chief lawmaking body of the state.
_____ True _____ False
14. If a law passed by a state is contrary to provisions of the U.S. Constitution, which law prevails?

15. If a vacancy occurs in the U.S. Senate, the state must hold an election, but meanwhile the place may be filled by a temporary appointment made by _____

16. A U.S. senator is elected for a term of _____ years.
17. Appropriation of money for the armed services can be only for a period limited to _____ years.
18. The chief executive and the administrative offices make up the _____ branch of government.
19. Who passes laws dealing with piracy? _____

20. The number of representatives which a state is entitled to have in the House of Representatives is based on _____
21. The Constitution protects an individual against punishments which are _____ and _____.
22. When a jury has heard and rendered a verdict in a case, and the judgment on the verdict has become final, the defendant cannot again be brought to trial for the same cause.
_____ True _____ False
23. Name two levels of government which can levy taxes: _____

24. Communism was the type of government in:
_____ U.S.
_____ Russia
_____ England
25. Cases tried before a court of law are two types, civil and _____.
26. By a majority vote of the members of Congress, the Congress can change provisions of the Constitution of the U.S.
_____ True _____ False

27. For security, each state has a right to form a _____.
28. The electoral vote for President is counted in the presence of two bodies. Name them:

29. If no candidate for President receives a majority of the electoral vote, who decides who will become President? _____
30. Of the original 13 states, the one with the largest representation in the first Congress was
_____.
31. Of which branch of government is the Speaker of the House a part?
____ Executive
____ Legislative
____ Judicial
32. Capital punishment is the giving of a death sentence.
____ True ____ False
33. In case the President is unable to perform the duties of his office, who assumes them?

34. "Involuntary servitude" is permitted in the U.S. upon conviction of a crime.
____ True ____ False
35. If a state is a party to a case, the Constitution provides that original jurisdiction shall be in
_____.
36. Congress passes laws regulating cases which are included in those over which the U.S. Supreme Court has _____ jurisdiction.
37. Which of the following is a right guaranteed by the Bill of Rights of the U.S. Constitution.
____ Public Housing
____ Education
____ Voting
____ Trial by Jury
38. The Legislatures of the states decide how presidential electors may be chosen.
____ True ____ False
39. If it were proposed to join Alabama and Mississippi to form one state, what groups would have to vote approval in order for this to be done? _____

40. The Vice President presides over _____.
41. The Constitution limits the size of the District of Columbia to _____.
42. The only laws which can be passed to apply to an area in a federal arsenal are those passed by _____ provided consent for the purchase of the land is given by the _____.
43. In which document or writing is the "Bill of Rights" found? _____.
44. Of which branch of government is a Supreme Court justice a part?
____ Executive
____ Legislative
____ Judicial
45. If no person receives a majority of the electoral votes, the Vice President is chosen by the Senate.
____ True ____ False
46. Name two things which the states are forbidden to do by the U.S. Constitution.

47. If election of the President becomes the duty of the U.S. House of Representatives and it fails to act, who becomes President and when? _____
48. How many votes must a person receive in order to become President if the election is decided by the U.S. House of Representatives? _____
49. How many states were required to approve the original Constitution in order for it to be in effect? _____
50. Check the offenses which, if you are convicted of them, disqualify you for voting:
____ Murder
____ Issuing worthless checks
____ Petty larceny
____ Manufacturing whiskey
51. The Congress decides in what manner states elect presidential electors.
____ True ____ False
52. Name two of the purposes of the U.S. Constitution. _____

53. Congress is composed of _____.
54. All legislative powers granted in the U.S. Constitution may legally be used only by _____.
55. The population census is required to be made every _____ years.
56. Impeachments of U.S. officials are tried by _____.
57. If an effort to impeach the President of the U.S. is made, who presides at the trial?

58. On the impeachment of the chief justice of the Supreme Court of the U.S., who tries the case?

59. Money is coined by order of:
_____ U.S. Congress
_____ The President's Cabinet
_____ State Legislatures
60. Persons elected to cast a state's vote for U.S. President and Vice President are called presidential _____.
61. Name one power which is exclusively legislative and is mentioned in one of the parts of the U.S. Constitution above _____.
62. If a person flees from justice into another state, who has authority to ask for his return?

63. Whose duty is it to keep Congress informed of the state of the union? _____

64. If the two houses of Congress cannot agree on adjournment, who sets the time?

65. When presidential electors meet to cast ballots for President, must all electors in a state vote for the same person for President or can they vote for different persons if they so choose? _____

66. After the presidential electors have voted, to whom do they send the count of their votes?

67. The power to declare war is vested in _____.

68. Any power and rights not given to the U.S. or prohibited to the states by the U.S. Constitution are specified as belonging to whom? _____

Answers to Alabama Literacy Test

1. Trial by Jury only
2. False (every 10 years)
3. Habeas Corpus (immediate presentation of charges); lawyer; speedy trial.
4. January 3
5. January 20
6. Proposed change, as in a Constitution
7. Life (with good behavior)
8. Nine
9. Yes
10. Affirm
11. 35
12. In God We Trust
13. False
14. U.S. Constitution
15. The governor
16. Six
17. Two
18. Executive
19. Congress
20. Population (as determined by census) *less untaxed Indians*
21. Cruel and unusual
22. True
23. State and local
24. Russia
25. Criminal
26. False
27. Militia
28. House of Representatives, Senate
29. House of Representatives
30. Virginia
31. Legislative
32. True
33. The Vice President
34. True
35. The Supreme Court
36. Co-appellate
37. Trial by Jury
38. True
- 39> Congress and the legislatures of both states
40. The Senate
41. 10 miles square
42. Congress; state legislatures
43. Constitution
44. Judicial

45. True
46. Coin money; make treaties
47. The Vice President, until the House acts
48. 26
49. 9
50. Murder
51. False
52. (Preamble statements) "to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity."
53. House of Representatives and Senate
54. Congress
55. 10
56. The Senate
57. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court
58. The Senate
59. The U.S. Congress
60. Electors
61. Pass laws, coin money, declare war
62. The Governor
63. The President
64. The President
65. They can vote for different people
66. Vice President (President of the Senate)
67. Congress
68. The states; the people

Today's Torah Portion: VAERA 6:2-9:35

Synopsis:

This portion begins with God reviewing His covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. "I have heard the cries of the Israelites," God says, "and I will now fulfill my promise to them, redeeming them from slavery and bringing them into the land which I promised to their ancestors" (6:5).

When Moses tells all this to the Israelites, they will not listen. So Moses appeals to God, claiming that if the Israelites will not heed him, how can he hope to convince Pharaoh? God tells Moses that Aaron will be the spokesperson before Pharaoh, and though God's signs and wonders will be many, Pharaoh will, in the beginning, refuse to give in. This is because God is going to harden Pharaoh's heart.

When Pharaoh does refuse to allow the Israelites to journey into the wilderness to worship God, the plagues of blood and frogs occur. However, the magicians of Pharaoh duplicate these occurrences. When the third plague, lice, afflicts the land, the magicians become fearful and tell Pharaoh that this act is the finger of God. But it is only with the fourth plague, swarms of insects, that Pharaoh begins to show signs of softening, offering to allow the Israelites to worship God within the land of Egypt. Once the plague abates, however, Pharaoh changes his mind, and the fifth, sixth and seventh plagues (cattle disease, boils, and hail) follow in swift succession.

Discussion:

1. The Ten Plagues drama is set up as a confrontation of wills between God and Pharaoh. But it is an unfair confrontation, because God is pulling all the strings in the background...He is "hardening Pharaoh's heart," causing the Egyptian king to not let the people go. Why does God do this? Is Pharaoh still responsible for his actions?

Some Possible Solutions:

..."God had determined that Pharaoh should act as he did, but Pharaoh conducted himself according to his own motives. God made it so, but Pharaoh only had to be himself to do God's will."

- M. Greenberg

...God didn't actually harden his heart, but gave Pharaoh the free will to harden his own heart - thus only indirectly causing Pharaoh to change his mind. (The phrase "hardened his heart" occurs 19 times; only 9 times is it ascribed to God.)

... God was in total command. Pharaoh was not a villain, but a victim, caught up in the midst of a great drama which God deemed necessary to prepare his people for the final stage in their maturity; redemption from slavery and revelation of the Torah at Mt. Sinai.

Which of these positions do you prefer?
Which fits best with the text? (Check out all the times it says "his heart was hardened" to see).

2. How "miraculous" were the plagues?

...After all, the Egyptian magicians were able to copy some of them.

...Also, Jewish tradition seems to downplay the importance of this type of supernatural miracle. They happen, but shouldn't be the basis of faith.

...In the Bible, the plagues are referred to as "signs" and "wonders," but not necessarily supernatural (against the laws of nature). How was their outlook different from ours?

...In Deut. 13:2-4, the Torah warns us not to trust the performance of extraordinary signs as evidence of prophetic authenticity.

Do you believe that the plagues occurred as they are described?

How important is their historical authenticity to the rest of the Exodus story? (Can you still accept the Exodus story as historical fact, even if you think the plagues didn't happen)

...Some people have tried to prove that the plagues could have occurred "naturally," (e.g. an eclipse - darkness, "red tide" - blood in the Nile) Is this necessary? Would it make it easier for you to accept the rest of the story if this were true?

...Others explain the plagues allegorically: that they didn't really happen, but teach us a lesson.

For instance, according to the Interpreter's Bible: "One can read the plagues like a tragic history of the troubles of life. Starting with general unpleasantness, like the lack of good water and the stink of dead fish; followed by unpleasant company (frogs) hopping and croaking around everywhere; then stinging flocks of minor irritations lice and flies; until, in full earnest, comes real sickness for man and beast, storms, hail and lightning; and real enemies in battalions, locusts; then terror in darkness, and death."

Do you prefer to look at the plagues in this light?

Now given all of these options, how would you deal with the ten plagues and Biblical miracles in general?