

### **Nelson Denny Reading Comprehension and Vocabulary Test**

This examination is broken down into two sections. One section covers the Reading Comprehension portion of the examination. The second section covers the vocabulary portion of the examination. The two sections of the test are timed.

In this study guide, you will find two similar examples of the type of reading comprehension passages and questions you will be expected to answer during the Reading Comprehension section of the examination. You will also find a word list consisting of 300 words you should be familiar with before taking the examination. The word list is also accompanied by two sample questions similar to what you will be expected to answer during the examination.

Prior to the beginning of the test, a proctor will give concise instructions regarding the examination. A passing score of 90 is required to proceed in the hiring process. Those individuals scoring below a 90 will be disqualified from proceeding further into the hiring process.

#### **Study Guide for the Nelson Denny**

Sample Question:

#1 Indispensable means: A. uncomfortable B. costly C. durable D. essential E. timely

#2 If something atrophies, it: A. saves up B. wastes away C. wins D. develops E. moves

The word list is on the following 3 (three) pages.

Explain  
Vulgar  
Elastic  
Copious  
Evoke  
Exaggerate  
Heedless  
Instill  
Similarities  
Garish  
Massive  
Credulity  
Boisterous  
Avidly  
Lapses  
Ensuing  
Tawdry  
Resources  
Brazen  
Blatant  
Quest  
Onerous  
Indispensable  
Resplendent  
Stultify  
Replication  
Usury  
Waft  
Whet  
Zealous  
Vilify  
Migration  
Ail  
Jovial  
Lyre  
Inscribe  
Indict  
Aggravated  
Dependence  
Delusion  
Militant  
Juncture  
Scant  
Peers

Alter  
Implosion  
Partial  
Introspective  
Incursion  
Unequivocal  
Edifices  
Tasteless  
Abruptly  
Ascribe  
Grasp  
Avow  
Segments  
Quota  
Fulcrum  
Harrowingly  
Harrow  
Sparse  
Entreat  
Edit  
Sway  
Ethos  
Desist  
Extol  
Lurking  
Unworthy  
Mesh  
Surface  
Atonement  
Presumed  
Intoxicate  
Belligerent  
Resistance  
Cacophony  
Surplus  
Cohort  
Sensory  
Congregate  
Incentive  
Cordon  
Linear  
Covert  
Delayed  
Void

Vessel  
Craven  
Insufficient  
Schemes  
Cower  
Degenerate  
Unscrupulous  
Credulous  
Induce  
Syndrome  
Deride  
Drudgery  
Disperse  
Placid  
Derision  
Prodigious  
Destitute  
Contaminate  
Vivid  
Despotic  
Recessive  
Dolt  
Wreak  
Leniency  
Emit  
Ailment  
Rigidity  
Ennui  
Fascinated  
Succulent  
Diversity  
Verbatim  
Exigent  
Rampant  
Susceptible  
Fallacious  
Robust  
Foolhardy  
Feckless  
Glib  
Fracas  
Scathing  
Retention  
Foibles

Surfeit  
Uncouth  
Gullible  
Curtailed  
Hapless  
Idiosyncrasy  
Obscure  
Hoodwink  
Sardonic  
Demise  
Iconoclast  
Pseudo  
Imbued  
Imbroglia  
Caricatures  
Mundane  
Blatantly  
Insidious  
Emulate  
Pungent  
Laud  
Lofty  
Mar  
Myopic  
Narcissist  
Overtly  
Obdurate  
Pith  
Quaff  
Rarefy  
Tyro  
Underling  
Venal  
Turmoil  
Torpor  
Undertaker  
Fearless  
Stress  
Dismal  
Confidential  
Value  
Aliens  
Grueling  
Pledge

Lethal  
Interrogate  
Mute  
Affected  
Turbulent  
Gnome  
Competent  
Granted  
Lurk  
Recipient  
Ingests  
Obscene  
Persisted  
Deserve  
Entice  
Apothecary  
Opted  
Impetuous  
Regress  
Forestalled  
Romp  
Perplexed  
Adverse  
Replenishment  
Quench  
Vehemently  
Pomposity  
Impromptu  
Heinous  
Affronted  
Amnesty  
Cumbersome  
Libel  
Admonitions  
Devastation  
Enliven  
Illuminate  
Imperceptible  
Rational  
Provocative  
Foreshadowing  
Inevitability  
Perpetual  
Shackles

Narcissism  
Berated  
Deplorable  
Intangible  
Irate  
Estrangement  
Virtuosos  
Prone  
Mayhem  
Ebb  
Inept  
Annotate  
Denote  
Subtle  
Invaluable  
Ruefully  
Assess  
Painstaking  
Advocate  
Mollifying  
Ethereal  
Lethargic  
Prolific  
Bequest  
Flippant  
Pallid  
Apathetically  
Ebullient  
Atrophies  
Nuances  
Menial  
Pugnacity  
Formidable  
Fatigued  
Enamored  
Dissect  
Countenance  
Famished  
Apprized  
Aural  
Analyze  
Abstract  
Aesthetic  
Benevolent

Capricious  
Complacent  
Conciliatory  
Devious  
Diligent  
Discernible  
Dogmatic  
Eccentric  
Fallacious  
Indifferent  
Inquisitive  
Meticulous  
Pertinent  
Plausible  
Reticent  
Morose  
Novice  
Obscure  
Ostentatious  
Precocious  
Prevaricate  
Querulous  
Quiescent  
Repose  
Repudiate  
Soporific  
Spontaneous  
Squander  
Theoretical  
Virulent  
Diverse  
Enigma  
Futile  
Gratuitous  
Hackneyed  
Incessant  
Insidious

## Comprehension Sample Question

### Passage One

Governments cost money – huge sums of money. Our federal government alone spends close to \$250 billion each year. State and local governments spend many more billions. About 35 cents out of each dollar earned by all American workers and business firms goes as taxes to help pay costs of governments. From these figures, you may get some idea of the enormous costs of the services and programs that our governments provide.

What is this money spent for? In the early 1970's the federal government spent from \$75 billion to \$80 billion each year for national defense. Space research and technology took another \$3 billion to \$4 billion. Veteran's benefits cost \$8 to \$12 billion.

Interest on the national debt was over \$20 billion per year. In addition, many billions of dollars were required for the federal government to help our states construct highways, housing, and community redevelopment projects. Federal aid to education and manpower training averaged over \$10 billion annually.

The huge costs of governments are of concern to every citizen. Americans have to pay the costs of government. We pay them without taxes. We have a responsibility as concerned citizens to make sure that our governments spend our money wisely and spend it for worthwhile purposes.

1. Which of the following federal programs was not mentioned?
  - a. Retirement
  - b. Research
  - c. Redevelopment
  - d. Education
  - e. Housing
2. State and local governments were said to spend \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. \$20 billion
  - b. \$3 billion to \$4 billion
  - c. \$250 billion
  - d. \$35 billion
  - e. an amount not given
3. The best title for this passage would be
  - a. Runaway Spending
  - b. Government Spending
  - c. Federal Wastefulness
  - d. The National Debt
  - e. Federal Taxes
4. The Federal government apparently does not help the states in the area of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Education
  - b. Manpower training
  - c. Housing
  - d. Public safety
  - e. Redevelopment

## Passage Two

*Economics* is a study of the process by which we make and spend our incomes. It is also defined as a study of how man satisfies his wants and needs for economic goods and services. Even more specifically, economics is a study the process by which man attempts to get the most satisfaction possible when he cannot buy all of the goods and services that he would like. The inability of man to buy all of the goods and services that he would like is often referred to as the economic fact of *scarcity*. Economics, then, is concerned with the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services.

Economic activity at a given time includes everything that is being done to satisfy man's wants and needs through production, distribution, and consumption. Management, labor, and government all contribute to economic activity through which man's wants and needs are satisfied. The end results sought through economic activity are: (1) the creating of economic goods and services for man's use; and (2) the providing of opportunities for man to earn a reasonable income so he can acquire and consume the goods and services he wants and needs.

5. Economics was definitely said to involve \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Making a living
  - b. Satisfying our needs
  - c. Paying taxes
  - d. Planning a budget
  - e. Making investments
6. The passage mentions \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Scarcity
  - b. Surplus
  - c. Depression
  - d. Inflation
  - e. Taxes
7. The purpose of this passage is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. To arouse interest
  - b. To entertain
  - c. To criticize
  - d. To make clear
  - e. To warn
8. Chief emphasis is on the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. How
  - b. Where
  - c. When
  - d. What
  - e. Why

Reading Comprehension Answer: 1. A, 2. E, 3. B, 4. D, 5. B, 6. A, 7. D, 8. A

Vocabulary Answer: 1. D, 2. B