



Test Papers
Hub.

ACT Reading Practice Paper 1

Reading

36 questions · 4 passages · 40 minutes · Enhanced ACT format

How to use this booklet

- Read each passage, then answer the 9 questions that follow it. Choose the best answer based on what is stated or implied.
- Passages I and III use answer choices A–D; Passages II and IV use answer choices F–J. Passage II is a pair: read Passage A and Passage B before answering questions 10–18.
- You have 40 minutes for all 36 questions. There is no penalty for guessing, so answer every question.

40 40 along the rim. "It leans," he said, and for a moment her chest went hollow. Then he set it down carefully, almost gently. "But it will hold water. That is enough for a first one. The leaning, we fix next."

Mira laughed before she could stop herself — a short, surprised sound, half relief and half something closer to pride. She had spent ninety-one days waiting to be trusted with fire, and it occurred to her
45 45 only now, watching Salvatore return the tumbler to its shelf with the same care he gave his finest work, that the waiting itself had been the first lesson, delivered so quietly she had nearly missed it.

1. Which choice best describes what happens in the passage as a whole?

- A. A young apprentice glassblower endures a long, quiet apprenticeship and gradually earns her mentor's trust through incremental progress.
- B. A skilled craftsman decides to retire and passes his workshop to a new apprentice.
- C. A young woman abandons glassblowing after a series of failures convinces her she lacks the necessary skill.
- D. A master glassblower publicly humiliates his apprentice before recognizing her hidden talent.

2. According to the passage, what specifically does Salvatore do each morning before acknowledging Mira?

- A. He reviews a checklist posted near the furnace door.
- B. He waits for the gulls to quiet down before opening the shop.
- C. He inspects her work from the previous day.
- D. He checks the furnace's glow, lays out the blowpipes in order of length, and speaks to the fire.

3. It can reasonably be inferred that Salvatore begins leaving the workshop door unlocked early (lines 31-33) because he:

- A. has begun to trust that Mira is developing genuine skill, even though he does not say so directly.
- B. wants Mira to practice unsupervised night gathers before he tests her further.
- C. can no longer arrive early himself due to other obligations.
- D. hopes Mira will accidentally break more glass so she learns faster.

4. Based on the passage, how does Mira's finished tumbler turn out?

- A. It is flawless, and Salvatore praises it without reservation.
- B. It shatters during the annealing process.
- C. It has a slight lean but is still functional.
- D. Salvatore refuses to inspect it.

5. Mira's laughter in the final paragraph (lines 44-46) is best understood as an expression of:

- A. embarrassment at having made a mistake in front of Salvatore.
- B. relief and quiet pride after a long period of uncertain effort.
- C. amusement at Salvatore's blunt criticism of the tumbler's lean.
- D. nervousness about whether she will be allowed to continue her training.

6. As it is used in line 3, the word "forgave" most nearly means:

- A. pardoned
- B. excused financially
- C. forgot
- D. tolerated

7. The overall tone of the passage's narration is best described as:

- A. quietly attentive to small physical and emotional details of a gradual apprenticeship.
- B. sarcastic and dismissive of Mira's efforts.
- C. clinical and detached, withholding any insight into Mira's feelings.
- D. urgent and suspenseful, building toward a dramatic accident.

8. The primary function of the paragraph describing the ruined first gather (lines 13-19) is to:

- A. to demonstrate that Mira lacks the physical coordination ever to master glassblowing.
- B. to show, through a concrete failure, the gap between watching a skill and performing it.
- C. to criticize Salvatore's teaching method as needlessly harsh.
- D. to foreshadow that Mira will quit the apprenticeship.

9. Which choice best describes the passage's structure?

- A. It alternates between Mira's perspective and Salvatore's perspective on the same events.
- B. It moves chronologically from Mira's earliest days of observation through her first independent success.
- C. It presents a single event in extended detail, interrupted by flashbacks to Mira's childhood.
- D. It opens with Mira's triumph and then explains, through flashback, how she achieved it.

READING — 36 QUESTIONS

Answers & worked solutions

Answer Key

1	A	2	D	3	A	4	C	5	B	6	D
7	A	8	B	9	B	10	F	11	H	12	J
13	G	14	F	15	H	16	J	17	G	18	F
19	C	20	A	21	D	22	B	23	C	24	A
25	D	26	B	27	C	28	J	29	F	30	H
31	J	32	G	33	F	34	H	35	G	36	G

1. Which choice best describes what happens in the passage as a whole? [Key Ideas & Details]

Correct answer: A — A young apprentice glassblower earns her mentor's trust through slow, steady progress.

- Proved by the passage as a whole (lines 1-46): Mira spends ninety-one days observing before being allowed to try, fails, improves gradually, and finally produces a usable (if imperfect) tumbler.
- The correct answer is A: A young apprentice glassblower earns her mentor's trust through slow, steady progress.
- Why the other options are wrong:
- B: Out of Scope — no retirement or handover is mentioned anywhere in the passage.
- C: Direct Contradiction — Mira does not abandon glassblowing; she succeeds by the end.
- D: Too Extreme — Salvatore's responses (lines 19-22, 40-43) are blunt but not humiliating; he never berates her.

LOS: Key Ideas & Details

KEY TAKEAWAY

The correct main-idea answer must be true of the entire passage, not just one paragraph or event within it.

2. According to the passage, what specifically does Salvatore do each morning before acknowledging Mira? [Key Ideas & Details]

Correct answer: D — He checks the furnace's glow, lays out the blowpipes by length, and speaks to the fire.

- Proved by lines 6-11: 'checking the furnace's glow through a peephole... laying out the blowpipes in order of length, murmuring to the fire.'
- The correct answer is D: He checks the furnace's glow, lays out the blowpipes by length, and speaks to the fire.
- Why the other options are wrong: