



Sample ACT Test Items



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A Voice of Her Own

Sandra Cisneros, perhaps the best known Latina author in the United States, writes poems and stories whose titles alone—“Barbie-Q,” “My Lucy Friend Who Smells Like Corn,” “Woman Hollering Creek”—engage potential readers’ curiosity. To the pleasure of her readers, Cisneros’s work, which uses both English and Spanish, is as interesting as the titles suggest.

- ***A.** NO CHANGE
- B.** potential, reader’s
- C.** potential, readers
- D.** potential readers

Near a large city, planes take off from two airfields. One of the fields is capable of sending up a plane every 3 minutes. The other field is capable of sending up 2 planes every 7 minutes. At these rates, which of the following is the most reasonable estimate of the total number of planes the two airfields could send up in 90 minutes?

- A. 18
- B. 27
- C. 36
- D. 44
- *E. 55

SOCIAL SCIENCE: This passage is adapted from the biography *Huey Long* by T. Harry Williams (©1969 by Alfred A. Knopf, Inc.).

The story seems too good to be true—but people who should know swear that it is true. The first time that Huey P. Long campaigned in rural, Latin, Catholic south Louisiana, the local boss who had him in charge
5 said at the beginning of the tour: “Huey, you ought to remember one thing in your speeches today. You’re from north Louisiana, but now you’re in south Louisiana. And we got a lot of Catholic voters down here.” “I know,” Huey answered. And throughout the day in every small town Long would begin by saying:
10 “When I was a boy, I would get up at six o’clock in the morning on Sunday, and I would hitch our old horse up to the buggy and I would take my Catholic grandparents to mass. I would bring them home, and at ten
15 o’clock I would hitch the old horse up again, and I would take my Baptist grandparents to church.” The effect of the anecdote on the audiences was obvious, and on the way back to Baton Rouge that night the local leader said admiringly: “Why, Huey, you’ve been hold-
20 ing out on us. I didn’t know you had any Catholic grandparents.” “Don’t be a fool,” replied Huey. “We didn’t even have a horse.”

Some people would say today, as some said then, that the incident was characteristic of Huey P. Long,
25 that it revealed all the cynicism and contempt of democracy and all the scheming ruthlessness of the man who seemed in the 1930’s to be the first American dictator, the first great native fascist, who was compared to Hitler and Mussolini, who finally commanded
30 one of the largest mass followings in the country and appeared to be on the verge of taking over the national government as he had his own state. And he was a new type of leader on the American scene—this man whose reddish-brown hair dipped rebelliously over his fore-
35 head, whose full and facile face could in a moment shift from its usual expression of mischief to one of consuming anger, who could act like a rustic clown off the platform and turn into a magnetic spellbinder when he stepped on it. A pudgy pixie who could suddenly
40 become a demon, he was different—and yet in many ways he was completely traditional. His many enemies missed the latter aspect. But not even they could deny that something made him surpassingly interesting; something set him apart from other leaders of his time.

45 He went to Washington with the conviction that his destiny would lead him to the presidency, just as from youth he planned step by step the career that would lead him to the highest office. He entered the Senate as a liberal Democrat, a supporter of men and
50 measures to curb big business. In 1932 he advocated that his party nominate as its presidential candidate Franklin D. Roosevelt. Long stumped vigorously for Roosevelt in the campaign, and after the latter’s election there was a brief period when it seemed that the
55 two were going to make an unusually effective combination, the Eastern and the Southern liberals working together for liberal reform. That possibility evaporated

almost immediately. He realized that Roosevelt was a man who had a will fully as strong as his own and who
60 was also just as great a politician. Returning from an interview with Roosevelt, he said to a close friend: “I found a man as smart as I am. I don’t know if I can travel with him.”

Roosevelt feared what Long might accomplish as a
65 conventional political operator, as a rival who might unseat him from the presidency. On the eve of the election of 1936 most of the talk at Democratic headquarters concerned Long’s intentions, and it was scared talk. Would Huey be a presidential candidate on a third-party
70 ticket? Long himself had a somewhat different plan. According to the testimony of intimates, he intended to run some liberal Democrat as a third-party entry and so divide the liberal vote that the Republican candidate would win. The Republicans would be incapable of
75 dealing with the depression, the economic system would go to pieces, and by 1940 the country would be crying for a strong leader to save it.

Conceivably, it might have happened just as he thought it would. Just as conceivably, it might not have.
80 Long might well have foundered on the rock of the two-party system, as other gifted political rebels before him had done. Instead of grasping the supreme success he saw as his destiny, he might have lived out his life as a frustrated and embittered secondary politician. What
85 might have been can never be known. Fate, which has shattered the dreams of other strong men, suddenly intervened. On a warm September night in 1935 Huey Long, at the height of his power, apparently invincible, was shot down by an assassin in his capitol at Baton
90 Rouge.

The author’s attitude toward Huey Long is best characterized as one of:

- *A. deep interest in the complexities of this political figure.
- B. undisguised contempt for the person he calls a “native fascist.”
- C. admiration for Long’s political savvy and determination.
- D. curiosity about Long’s relationship to Roosevelt.

Chemistry Data Representation passage

The *molar heat of vaporization* (ΔH_{vap}) is defined as the energy in kilojoules (kJ) required to vaporize 1 mole of a liquid at its boiling point at constant pressure. The energy required to melt 1 mole of a solid at its melting point is called the *molar heat of fusion* (ΔH_{fus}). The *molar heat of sublimation* is the sum of the molar heats of fusion and vaporization.

The following table lists molar heats of vaporization and molar heats of fusion, as well as the boiling points and melting points for selected substances.

Substance	Melting point* (°C)	ΔH_{fus} (kJ/mol)	Boiling point* (°C)	ΔH_{vap} (kJ/mol)
Argon	-190.0	1.3	-164.0	6.3
Methane	-182.0	0.8	-159.0	9.2
Ethyl ether	-116.2	6.9	34.6	26.0
Ethanol	-117.3	7.6	78.3	39.3
Benzene	5.5	10.9	80.1	31.0
Water	0.0	6.1	100.0	40.8
Mercury	-39.0	23.4	357.0	59.0

*Measured at a pressure of 1 atmosphere (atm)

The boiling point of pentane is 36.1°C. If pentane follows the general pattern of the other substances in the table, its molar heat of vaporization will be:

- A. below 6 kJ/mol.
- B. between 6 kJ/mol and 9 kJ/mol.
- C. between 9 kJ/mol and 26 kJ/mol.
- *D. between 26 kJ/mol and 40 kJ/mol.