

STEP 2 READING EXAMPLE QUESTIONS

The following passage and questions represent the level of English tested on the Step 2 reading test.



Read the passage and answer the questions.

Adobe is a type of brick made out of water, sand, clay, and dry grass. In hot, dry places, people use adobe instead of wood to build houses. Because people use water to make adobe bricks, the bricks start out wet but then dry in the hot sun. Adobe is useful for building houses because in hot, dry weather, the houses stay the same temperature inside the walls while the outdoor temperature changes a lot during the day. Adobe is also good to use because it is sturdy and lasts a long time. In fact, some of the oldest buildings in the world are adobe.

6. What is the passage about?

- (A) The places where people build adobe houses
- (B) The reasons to use adobe to build a house
- (C) How to build an adobe house

7. Most adobe houses are probably _____.

- (A) in the desert
- (B) in rainy places
- (C) on islands

STEP 2 LISTENING EXAMPLE QUESTIONS

The following passage and questions represent the level of English tested in the Step 2 listening section. On the test, passages, questions, and answer choices are both spoken on the audio and printed in the test book.



**Listen to the passage and answer the questions.
Fill in the correct circles on your answer sheet.**

- 9. Why did people build moats hundreds of years ago?**
- (A) To make a castle more beautiful
 - (B) To make castle walls stronger
 - (C) To keep a castle safe
- 10. How do people make moats?**
- (A) By digging around a building
 - (B) By building very tall walls
 - (C) By joining two large buildings together
- 11. Why do some zoos have moats?**
- (A) To keep people away from animals
 - (B) To give animals water to drink
 - (C) To make space for more animals

Passage Script

Hundreds of years ago, leaders like such as kings and queens lived in large, fancy houses called castles. They needed to keep the castles safe, so they had workers dig moats around the castles. A moat was a deep ditch all around a castle and sometimes was filled with water. The moat kept dangerous people and the king's or queen's enemies away from the castle. People had to cross the moat on a bridge or in a boat. Some moats were small, but some were like a small lake. There were even castles with moats inside the castle. These moats separated different parts of the castle.

Most places today, even very large houses or museums, do not have moats. But some places do—like zoos. Sometimes zoos use moats to separate animals from people.