

2012 Admissions Test

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NEWS ANALYSIS

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NEWS WRITING
DRILL

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GRAMMAR

6

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Name *

First

Last

Date of Birth *

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MM

DD

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2012 IA. NEWS ANALYSIS (35–45 MINUTES)

Write a news analysis of 400 words or fewer on ONE of the following five topics. Aim for a factual, editorial-style piece or an expository essay; use specific examples to add strength to your piece.

FORMAT: Please indicate which question you have chosen. You are not allowed to use spelling or grammar check software on the computer. If you do, your test and application for admission will be voided.

TIME: You should spend a maximum of 45 minutes on this section; it is suggested that you spend the first five to ten minutes outlining the analysis, and the last five editing it.

Choose ONE of the following essay questions: *

- Some Muslims want to build an Islamic Cultural Center and mosque in Lower Manhattan. What are the arguments for and against the Center? Make the case.
- Most news outlets do not charge readers for online content. Why don't they? What are some of the ways they could charge? Discuss the pros and cons.
- High unemployment remains a problem in the U.S. How should the country deal with it? Discuss the pros and cons of each approach.
- Discuss the rise of the Tea Party and its significance in American politics. What effect did it have in the 2010 midterm elections?

Your News Analysis *

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2012 IB. NEWS WRITING DRILL (20–25 MINUTES)

Here are some notes gathered from interviews with Detective Kenneth Burns of the NYC Police Department and other primary sources. Use them to **write a short news story of no more than 250 words**. Type your story double-spaced in 12-point Times Roman font.

Be sure to place your name and social security number in the upper left hand corner.

You are not allowed to use spelling or grammar check software on your computer. If you do, your test and application for admission will be voided.

It is recommended that you allot 20 – 25 minutes to work on this section.

Press Conference Notes:

- Two of Macy's storefront windows on Broadway between 34th and 35th streets in Manhattan were being boarded up early Tuesday morning.
- "Somebody must really hate Madonna," said Joey Palmer, 45, who was on his way to work near Herald Square at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday when he paused to take a look at the broken glass and mangled window frames.
- Jon Dough was charged with driving under the influence and damaging property.
- No alcohol, drugs or paraphernalia was found in the vehicle or on Dough.
- "Dude, it happened so fast, dude," Dough reportedly told the first police officer to arrive at the scene.
- Officers said that Dough was taken to Bellevue Hospital but refused to cooperate with the medical staff. After being medically cleared, Dough was taken to Manhattan Criminal Court at 100 Centre St. to await a first court appearance.
- Dough's vehicle was packed with all his belongings. He had just started out on a cross-country journey to California or Colorado, "one of those friendly states," he reportedly told police.
- Dough was given breath analyzers tests, which did not show any indication of alcohol.
- A spokesman for Macy's said it would probably take a month or more before the property was fully repaired and the windows ready for display.
- Dough said his uncle gave him the Ford Explorer, which is black and has 100,000 miles on it. The accident totaled the vehicle.

- Officers at the scene of the crash said Dough initially refused medical treatment, but once he was told he was being taken in for booking, he asked to be treated for crash-related injuries.
- "He's lucky that he made it out alive," NYPD spokesman Duane Reade said. "He's lucky that it was so early in the morning and that no pedestrians were in his path or lounging in the area."
- Dough told the first officer to arrive on the scene that when he was approaching the intersection, the light turned yellow, and he pressed on the brakes to come to a stop. However, the car inexplicably accelerated.
- Dough is a 22-year-old high school dropout from Flushing, Queens, police said.
- Police say that Dough told them he was driving his Ford Explorer west on 34th Street when he approached the intersection of Sixth Avenue and Broadway.
- On display at the time of the accident was the spring collection of pop megastar Madonna's fashion line for teens, Material Girl.
- The car seemed to have a life of its own, Dough told the officer, and veered toward the right, crashing into several tables and chairs set up in the car-free pedestrian area on Broadway outside Macy's before it proceeded to hit the storefront windows.
- The incident happened about 3:30 a.m. Tuesday.
- Police impounded the vehicle and said it would be held as evidence.
- Police found Dough walking back and forth on Broadway in front of the smashed storefront.
- The arresting officer, Carrie Nation, noted in the arrest report that Dough spontaneously "stated that I wasn't going to be able to arrest him for DUI because he hadn't been drinking. He then stated that all he did was smoke some marijuana."
- Dough told police that he had trouble sleeping and was looking to relocate to a state that allowed him to purchase medical marijuana "without the hassle of getting arrested."

News Writing Drill *

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NEWS WRITING
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CURRENT
EVENTS ID

2012 IIA. GRAMMAR (10–15 MINUTES)

Select the right answer for correctness and clarity. You will have 15 minutes to complete this section.

Identify any **incorrect** words.

1. Every American knows they have to file a federal tax return by April 15. *

2. He's the poor guy who's car rolled into the ditch. *

3. Any journalist who wants to stay employed had better file their story on time. *

4. Look no further. The culprit was I. *

5. He carried his son's bike, she brought her mother's blanket and the dog took it's own bone. *

6. I don't like anybody that doesn't like me. *

Select the **right answer** for correctness and clarity.

7. The main criterion for success (is/are) to work hard. *

- is
 are

8. (Less/fewer) than 100 people showed up at the rally. *

- less
 fewer

9. Neither fish nor fowl (have/has) ever appeared on that restaurant's menu. *

- have
- has

10. My terrible cold didn't (affect/effect) the quality of my work. *

- affect
- effect

11. A nice dessert wine would (compliment/complement) this wonderful meal. *

- compliment
- complement

12. Get-the-Lead-Out (led/lead) the horse race until the home stretch. *

- led
- lead

13. When you (lie/lay) down, your sleep will be sweet. *

- lie
- lay

14. (Whoever/whomever) he encountered, he greeted politely. *

- whoever
- whomever

15. Don't ask a journalist to recite the (principles/principals) of penmanship. *

- principles
- principals

Is the **punctuation** correct or incorrect?

A description of the section goes here.

16. "I asked her for a date, and she said, 'Get lost.'" *

- correct
- incorrect

17. I'll see you again when the birds come to sing. If they ever do. *

- correct
- incorrect

18. Margie, the woman on the left, married Karl, the man on the right; Mary Jo, second from the left, married Tom, the tall guy standing next to her; and Fred, of course, married Wilma. *

- correct
- incorrect

19. You can't count flies, they fly too fast. *

- correct
- incorrect

20. In the back yard of the house where I live in a muddy hole I planted a tree. *

- correct
- incorrect

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NEWS WRITING
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CURRENT
EVENTS ID

2012 IIB. CURRENT EVENT ID (30–35 MINUTES)

Identify the following subjects, explaining why they're in the news. Please be brief, 1–3 sentences will suffice.

1. Stieg Larssen *

2. Andrew Cuomo *

3. Hamid Karzai *

4. John Boehner *

5. Elena Kagan *

6. Mark Zuckerberg *

7. Nancy Pelosi *

8. Mad Men *

9. "Grizzly Mama" *

10. West Bank *

11. Harry Reid *

12. Charter Schools *

13. Mario Vargas Llosa *

14. Gen. David Petraeus *

15. Glenn Beck *

16. The Miami Heat *

17. Ben Bernanke *

18. Wyclef Jean *

19. Juarez, Mexico *

20. Rand Paul *