



Practice Test 44

Reading Passage 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on Questions 1-14 which are based on reading passage 1

In or Out?

A. In the 803, with an increased consciousness of equal opportunities, the focus of the further education college moved to widen participation, encouraging into colleges students from previously under-represented groups, particularly from ethnic minorities. This, in turn, led to a curriculum which was more representative of the new student body. For example, there were initiatives to ensure the incorporation of literature by black writers into A-level literature courses; history syllabuses were altered to move beyond a purely Eurocentric view of the world, and geography syllabuses began to look at the politics of maps.

B. British further education colleges did not traditionally have any concerns about student drop-out, because the origins of the sector were in vocational apprenticeship training for employers where the apprentice could not drop out without endangering their job. In the 703, this sector began to expand into more general education courses, which were seen both as an alternative to school for 16-18 year-olds and a second chance for adults. The philosophy was mainly liberal with students regarded as adults who should not be heavily monitored, but rather free to make their own decisions; it was not uncommon to hear academic staff argue that attendance at classes was purely voluntary.

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C. A turning point came in 1991 with the publication of a report on completion rates by the government inspection body for education, Her Majesty's Inspectorate for England and Wales, (HMI 1991). However, this report was based on the academic staff's explanations of why students had left. It suggested that the vast majority left either for personal reasons or because they had found employment and that only 10% left for reasons that could in any way be attributed to the college.

D. Meanwhile, Britain had been going through the Thatcherite revolution and, in parallel to the Reagan politics of the US, a key principle was the need to focus on radical taxation reduction. At this point (and to a large extent still), further and higher education colleges were almost entirely funded from the public purse. There had been many cuts in this funding through the 80s, but no one had really looked at value for money. However in the early 90s, the Audit Commission with Office of Standards in Education (OFSTED) (the new version of HMI) turned the spotlight onto further education and published a seminal report, *Unfinished Business* (Audit Commission and OFSTED 1993), which showed that drop-out was happening on a significant scale and, crucially given the politics of the time, attributed a cost to the state of £500 million, arguing that this was a waste of public (i.e. taxpayers') money. To quote Yorke (1999), non-completion became political.

E. The Audit Commission report coincided with government moves to privatize the functions of the state as much as possible; and with the decision to remove further education from the control of the local government and give it a quasi-dependent status, where colleges were governed by independent boards of governors bidding to the state for funding to run educational provision. As part of this, a new series of principles for funding and bidding was developed (FEFC 1994) which incorporated severe financial penalties for student drop-out. In essence, the system is that almost all the state funding is attached to the individual student. There is funding for initial advice and guidance, on-course delivery and student achievement, but if the student drops out, the college loses that funding immediately, so that loss of students in the first term leads to an immediate loss of college funding for the other two terms.

F. Not surprisingly, this focused the concern of colleges immediately and sharply on the

need to improve student retention rates. Recently, therefore, there has been considerable effort to improve retention but, as Martinez (1995) pointed out, there was nobody of research on which to base strategies. Additional complexity was that colleges had been slow to computerise their student data and most colleges were in the position of not knowing what their retention rates were or any patterns involved.

G. Where data did exist it was held separately by either administrative or academic staff with poor communication between these groups. Colleges, however, jumped into a number of strategies based largely on experience, instinct and common sense and publication of these began (Martinez 1996; Martinez 1997; Kenwright 1996; Kenwright 1997). The main strategies tried are outlined in the literature as summarised by Martinez (1996). These include sporting activities around entry to ensure 'best fit', supporting activities including child care, financial support and enrichment/learner support, connecting activities to strengthen the relationship between the college and the student, including mentoring and tutorials and activities to transform the student, including raising of expectations and study/career development support and tutoring.

Questions 1 – 3

Look at the following dates (Questions 1-3) and key events in the development of further education below.

Match each date with a key event.

Write the correct letters A-G in boxes 1-3 on your answer sheet.

1 1991

2 1993

3 1994

Key Events

A Severe penalties for drop-out are developed as part of college funding mechanisms.

B Serious attempts are made to improve student support

C An influential report showing that non-completion rates are significantly high is published.



E The lack of a strategical basis is officially recognized.

E The HTML is created.

F Data on student completion rates for further education are published.

G A minor report showing that non-completion rates are significantly high is published.

Questions 4-8

Complete the sentences below with words taken from Reading Passage 1.

Use **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** for each answer.

Write your answers in blank spaces 4-8 on your answer sheet.

4 Further education colleges in Britain were originally not worried about student drop-out, because students did not leave college for fear of.....

5 According to the writer, the philosophy at further education colleges was.....

6 As people became more aware of equal opportunities, colleges encouraged students from under-represented groups, as a move to.....

7 The HMI's report focused on completion rates, based on.....of reasons for students' departure from college.

8 In the early 1990s, the political situation, both in Britain and the US, demanded a major.....

Questions 9 – 14

Choose the correct letter, A, B, C or D.

Write your answers next to 9-14 on your answer sheet.

9 The report Unfinished Business

A pointed out the politics of the time.

B gave £500 million to the state,

C linked drop-out to wasting money.

D turned the spotlight.

10 The new series of principles developed in 1994 by the FEFC

A gave money to each student,

B was quasi-independent

C meant colleges had to turn their immediate attention to improving student retention rates.

D was aimed at improving teacher retention rates

11 Attempts to reduce the student drop-out rate were hindered, because

A there was a lack of research data upon which to base strategies.

B colleges did not know what to do.

C computers in colleges were slow.

D colleges had no patterns.

12 Further hindrances in reducing the student drop-out rate were

A colleges' slowness in computerizing data and not knowing their retention rates, nor what patterns of retention existed.

B college inertia and administrative incompetence.

C computer glitches and strikes, which occurred at most colleges.

D Colleges' strategies to deal with the problem of low retention.

13 Colleges' strategies to deal with the problem of low retention ...

A brought administrative and academic staff together

B varied enormously

C jumped

D was based on something other than data

14 The main strategies to improve retention included

A 'best fit' supporting activities.

B activities to support and transform the student.

C the raising of college expectations.

D a summary by Martinez.

Reading Passage 2

You should spend about 20 minutes on Questions 15-28 which are based on Reading Passage 2.

Tyes and Greens

A. There are a number of settlements in this part of East Anglia with names containing the word 'tye'. The word is Anglo-Saxon in origin, and the Oxford English Dictionary quotes the earliest usage of the term as dating from 832. Essentially a 'tye' was a green or a small area of open common land, usually sited away from the main village or settlement, perhaps at the junction of two or more routes. Local H W people and passing travellers had the right to pasture their horses, pigs and other farm animals on the tye.

B. In the Pebmarsh area there seem to have been five or six of these tyes, all, except one, at the margins of the parish. These marginal clearings are all away from the richer farming land close to the river, and, in the case of Cooks Green, Hayles Tye, and Dorking Tye, close to the edge of still existing fragments of ancient woodland. It seems likely that, here, as elsewhere in East Anglia, medieval freemen were allowed to clear a small part of the forest and create a smallholding. Such unproductive forest land would, in any case, have been unattractive to the wealthy baronial or monastic landowners. Most of the land around Pebmarsh village belonged to Earls Colne Priory, a wealthy monastery about 10 kilometres to the south, and it may be that by the 13th and 14th centuries the tyes were maintained by tenant farmers paying rent to the Priory.

C. Hayles Tye seems to have got its name from a certain John Hayle who is documented in the 13803, although there are records pointing to the occupation of the site at a much earlier date. The name was still in use in 1500 and crops up again throughout the 16th and 17th centuries, usually in relation to the payment of taxes or tithes. At some point during the 18th century, the name is changed to File's Green, though no trace of an owner called File has been found. Also in the 18th century, the original dwellings on the site disappeared. Much of this region was economically depressed during this period and the

land and its dwellings may simply have been abandoned. Several farms were abandoned in the neighbouring village of Alphamstone, and the population dwindled so much that there was no money to support the fabric of the village church, which became very dilapidated. However, another possibility is that the buildings at File's Green burnt down, fires being not infrequent at this time.

D. By 1817 the land was owned by Charles Townsend of Ferriers Farm, and in 1821 he built two brick cottages on the site, each cottage occupied by two families of agricultural labourers. The structure of these cottages was very simple, just a two-storey rectangle divided in the centre by a large common chimneypiece. Each dwelling had its own fireplace, but the two families seem to have shared a brick bread-oven which jutted out from the rear of the cottage. The outer wall of the bread-oven is still visible on the remaining cottage. The fireplaces themselves and the chimney structure appear to be older than the 1821 cottages and may have survived from the earlier dwellings. All traces of the common land had long disappeared, and the two cottages stood on a small plot of less than an acre where the labourers would have been able to grow a few vegetables and keep a few chickens or a pig. The bulk of their time was spent working at Ferrier's farm.

E. Both cottages are clearly marked on maps of 1874, but by the end of the century, one of them had gone. Again, the last years of the 19th century were a period of agricultural depression, and a number of smaller farms in the area were abandoned. Traces of one, Mosse's Farm, still partly encircled by a very overgrown moat, may be seen less than a kilometre from File's Green. It seems likely that, as the need for agricultural labour declined, one of the cottages fell into disuse, decayed and was eventually pulled down. Occasional fragments of rubble and brick still surface in the garden of the remaining cottage. In 1933, this cottage was sold to the manager of the newly-opened gravel works to the north-west of Pebmarsh village. He converted these two dwellings into one. This, then, is the only remaining habitation on the site and is called File's Green Cottage.

Questions 15 – 18

Choose the correct letter, **A, B, C or D**.

Write your answers next to 15-18 on your answer sheet.

15 A ty was

A a green.

B a large open area.

C common land with trees.

D found at the junction of two or more routes.

16 The Pebmarsh area

A probably had seven tyes.

B probably had six tyes.

C appears to have had five or six tyes.

D was not in East Anglia.

17 The tyes in the Pebmarsh area were

A near the river.

B used by medieval freemen.

C mostly at the margins of the parish.

D owned by Earls Colne Priory.

18 According to the writer, wealthy landowners

A did not find the sight of forest land attractive.

B found the sight of forest land attractive.

C were attracted by the sight of forest land.

D considered forest land unproductive.

Questions 19 – 28

Complete the table below.

Choose **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** from the passage for each answer.

Write your answers in blank spaces next to 19-28 on your answer sheet.

13805

John Hayle who is documented apparently



15005	gave his name to Hayles Tye The name of Hayles Tye was still 19..... and 20..... again in the following two centuries in relation to taxes.
18th Century	Hayles Tye was renamed 21.....; the original dwellings may either have disappeared or were 22.....
1817	Charles Townsend of Ferriers Farm 23..... Files Green.
1821	