

PRACTICE TEST 2003

INSTRUCTIONS: Read before you begin PRACTICE TEST

- This is a practice test for all M.S. applicants to the Journalism school. The GRE is only required of PhD, EESJ and Religion applicants.
- You cannot take the test before the appropriate time.
- Applicants to the January P/T program will take the exam in NYC after 11/8.
- The test is given all over the world after the application deadlines. Example: January '04 (after the 12/16 and 1/5 deadlines) Applicants take the test at 1) the school, 2) with an alumni proctor or if appropriate, 3) a self-selected proctor. (This includes EESJ, Religion applicants). If there is no alumni proctor in the applicants area the applicant may request to have a self-selected proctor who is trustworthy--- usually a teacher, professor or supervisor. All instructions will be sent via e-mail after the appropriate deadline.
- This practice test should be used as an outline for what the test may look like. We reserve the right to change the test, without notice, in any way before the appropriate test period.
- This will be the only “practice test” available as it is the most recent and therefore most helpful.
- Below are the instructions for the 2002-2003 Test.

-----Test Instructions-----

- Each section has a time limit. Sections Ia and Ib have a combined time limit of 60 minutes. Sections IIa and IIb have a combined time limit of 45 minutes. Use your time wisely. Each sub-section has a suggested time limit. Your proctor will keep you informed of the time.
- The test will take approximately 105 minutes. Spelling and grammar count.
- Once the test begins, you will not be allowed to leave the room. There will be a short break between Sections I and II. After the test, you will receive a copy of your news analysis, feature or news pieces. No part of the original test may be copied or taken with you.
- Sections IIa and IIb must be written in ink using the space provided. *WRITE LEGIBLY*
- **YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO USE THE SPELLING OR GRAMMAR CHECK FEATURES OF ANY SOFTWARE.** If you do, your test and application will be voided.
- Your proctor must sign the “Proctor Statement” on the first page. Please check to see that that has been done at the end of the test. Unsigned tests will not be read.
- Outline of the Columbia Journalism Writing Test:

| | | |
|----------|-----|--------------------------------------|
| Sections | Ia | Feature Drill (15 minutes) |
| | Ib | News Analysis/Editorial (45 minutes) |
| | | Short break |
| Sections | IIa | Punctuation (10 minutes) |
| | IIb | Identification (35 minutes) |

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SECTION I

(You have 60 Minutes to complete both Section Ia and Ib)

Must be typed using a computer.

You cannot use the spelling or grammar check function.

SECTION Ia

Section Ia. Writing a News Story (15 minutes)

SECTION Ia News Drill (do not use more than 15 minutes to complete Ia)

DIRECTIONS: Using the notes you gathered from County Sheriff Oscar Beebe below, write a short news story – no longer than 250 words (one page), for a local newspaper that circulates where this event occurred. Use a "today" time reference.

NOTES

- ✓ There was an accident this morning out at the construction site on Stairwell Road a mile north of town where the Bomasso Engineering Co. is putting up the steel post-and-beam framing for a furniture warehouse.
- ✓ It was very windy, according to construction workers at the site; they also said the beams were slippery from last night's rainstorm and no safety lines had been installed, despite a violation issued to the company the previous week.
- ✓ The city's buildings department had ordered it to install safety lines for workers to grab hold of in case they lost their balance.
- ✓ The accident happened at about 11 a.m.
- ✓ The victim was identified as Murphy Tease who was 51 years old and lived at 14 Lincoln Ave.
- ✓ He was a riveter, working about 40 feet off the ground and standing on a beam about 15 inches wide when suddenly there was a puff of wind and he lost his balance, waving his arms wildly for a few seconds, and then fell backwards to the concrete base of the construction site.
- ✓ He was unconscious when the ambulance arrived and took him to St. Luke's Hospital.
- ✓ The emergency room nurse said he had a broken right arm, three broken ribs and a fractured left leg. He also suffered a concussion.
- ✓ She said he was in satisfactory condition.

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SECTION IB EDITORIAL/NEWS ANALYSIS

Please read the following directions:

- **Answer only 1 question.**
- Format your document: double-spaced, 12-point Times Roman font.
- Suggested time to complete is 45 minutes
- Aim for an editorial-style or position piece column/essay like those that appear on the Op/Ed pages of the *New York Times*.
- Be thorough and factual in your response to the question.
- Content and writing are most important not word count. Try to keep your answer to two pages (500 words). Your answer must at least be one page.
- It is suggested that you take the **first** five minutes to outline your piece and the **last** five minutes to edit your work.
- Title your answer with **the number of the question** you have chosen.

Answer 1 question out of the 5 questions presented:

1. Should Pete Rose be reinstated into the game of baseball? Discuss the events that brought about the ban? Who was initially involved? Include Mr. Rose's defense in your answer. Include the current persons and issues (including economic) that are involved with such a decision.
2. Do you think children 17 years of age or under (juveniles) should be tried as adults in U.S. courts? Give examples both pro and con and include any effects to society and public policy in your answer.
3. Discuss the current state of affirmative action in the United States. When and why was it created? Whom does it help or hurt? Who will decide its future? How? Use current and historical examples to answer.
4. What criteria should the United States use in deciding to wage war on another country? Give specific examples from current and/or historical events in your answer.
5. A recent survey of 42 countries showed that Anti-American attitudes have increased significantly since September 11th, and that an initial wave of sympathy following the terrorist attacks has dissipated. A story about the survey reported, "*While many people still admire U.S. technological achievements and cultural exports, majorities in nearly every country said they disliked the spread of U.S. influence.*" Discuss possible reasons for this decline in U.S. favorability and its ramifications for the United States.

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SECTION IIa & IIb combined time limit 45 minutes

IIa. Correct the following sentences for grammar and word usage: The proposed time limit is 10 minutes. CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD

Circle the correct word for clarity and grammar.

1. The skier flew down the mountain **like/as if** he **were/was** fleeing the Gates of Hell.
2. **Fewer/less** than half of Columbia University's business school graduates voted in the last presidential election.
3. The media did not pay attention to the fact that none of the international athletes **were/was** tested for drugs.
4. The students will choose **whoever/whomever** they think will be the best circulation manager.
5. The documents **that/which** the reporter found in the National Archives formed the basis for her award-winning article.
6. Neither the players nor the coach **was/were** pleased with the outcome of the game.

Circle the correct word usage:

1. Versace's chief designer **flaunted/flouted** her Pollyanna lines of evening wear on the runway.
2. The school's admissions director **complemented/complimented** my choice of careers.
3. The 1989 convictions in the Central Park Jogger case **affected/effected** state legislators' decisions to try children as adults in the decade that followed.
4. Kurdish refugees were desperate to **immigrate/emigrate** first in France and then to the United Kingdom.
5. The United Nations' **principal/principle** concern was to disarm Iraq without causing renewed violence in the Middle East.
6. My friend **implied/inferred** that AIDS was Africa's most virulent enemy after she spent two years reporting in Malawi and Zimbabwe.

NOTE: You can go on to the Identification Section IIb, next page

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SECTION IIb Identification (proposed time limit 35 minutes)

WRITE LEGIBLY-- If you run out of room writing an answer in the space provided turn the page over and continue in the space that corresponds to the question –neatness counts.

IDENTIFICATION: Please identify and state the news or historical significance of the following:

1. Name 6 of the 9 Justices that sit on the U. S. Supreme Court

1a. _____

1b. _____

1c. _____

1d. _____

1e. _____

1f. _____

2. Name the Mayor of New York City.

3. Karl Rove

4. Bernard Law

5. Brown vs. Board of Education

6. Tony Soprano

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7. Donald Rumsfeld

8. The Freedom of Information Act (significance?)

9. The Gulf of Tonkin (historical & current significance?)

10. Eminem

11. Lee Bollinger

12. Bill Frist

13. Name 6 of the 15 countries that are members of the United Nations Security Council as of January 1, 2003.

13a. _____

13b. _____

13c. _____

13d. _____

13e. _____

13f. _____

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14. Lance Armstrong

15. January 16, 1991

16. Francis Crick & James Watson

17. Ramadan

18. Hugo Chavez

19. Frida Kahlo

20. Hans Blix

21. Saddam Hussein

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22. Chechnya

23. Al-Jazeera

24. Gerhard Schroeder

25. **GEOGRAPHY:** Review the map for questions 25b-25j. (Turn to next page for map)

25. Looking at the map on the next page, a letter of the alphabet identifies countries. Match 9 countries to their location indicated by the letter on the map.

| | <u>Country</u> | <u>Location</u> |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| <u>Example:</u> | 25a. Turkey | ___ P ___ |
| | 25b. _____ | ___ S ___ |
| | 25c. _____ | ___ D ___ |
| | 25d. _____ | ___ C ___ |
| | 25e. _____ | ___ G ___ |
| | 25f. _____ | ___ A ___ |
| | 25g. _____ | ___ F ___ |
| | 25h. _____ | ___ E ___ |
| | 25i. _____ | ___ Q ___ |
| | 25j. _____ | ___ K ___ |

Use the map on the next page.

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25. Map

