

DIRECTIONS FOR TEACHERS

LISTENING SECTION

COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION IN ENGLISH

Wednesday, June 17, 2009 — 9:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., only

BE SURE THAT THE LISTENING SECTION IS ADMINISTERED TO EVERY STUDENT.

- 1 Before the start of the examination period, say:

Do not open the examination booklet until you are instructed to do so.

- 2 Distribute one examination booklet and one essay booklet to each student.

- 3 After each student has received an examination booklet and an essay booklet, say:

Tear off the answer sheet, which is the last page of the examination booklet, and fill in its heading. Now circle “Session One” and fill in the heading on each page of your essay booklet.

- 4 After the students have filled in all headings on their answer sheets and essay booklets, say:

Look at page 2 of your examination booklet and follow along while I read the **Overview** and **The Situation**.

Overview:

For this part of the test, you will listen to an account about therapy dogs, answer some multiple-choice questions, and write a response based on the situation described below. You will hear the account twice. You may take notes on the next page anytime you wish during the readings.

The Situation:

Your health class is exploring community needs. For a class project, you have decided to write a letter to the director of a local long-term care facility to persuade the agency that therapy dogs can be used to benefit the elderly. In preparation for writing your letter, listen to an account by Steve Reiman about therapy dogs in long-term care facilities. Then use relevant information from the account to write your letter.

Now I will read the passage aloud to you for the first time.

- 5 Now read the passage aloud, including the attribution at the end. Read with appropriate expression, but without added comment.

Listening Passage

“There is no greater therapy than the love of a dog,” the sign above my desk proclaims. This animal/human love bond is demonstrated every day in millions of homes around the world. It is also the basis for what is becoming a powerful, common mode of therapy in many long-term health care facilities.

Animals have long been recognized as being a positive force in the healing process. Dogs have a calming and therapeutic effect. They help people cope with the emotional issues related to their illness. They also offer physical contact with another living creature, something that is often missing in an elder’s life. They always invoke pleasant memories of past pets. Best of all, they divert a person’s attention from the pressing problems of the day. For long-term elders, it is not so much the stress of daily problems, but the boredom, loneliness, and lack of control....

Dr. Michael McCulloch, a Portland, Oregon, psychiatrist, and Dr. Samuel Corson, of Ohio State University, are two active researchers and experts on why pets excel as therapeutic agents. The primary reasons McCulloch and Corson cite are an individual’s “need to be needed,” and “to touch and be touched.” Further, Dr. McCulloch states, “Touch is one of our primary needs when we’re born and one of our last needs to go.” In long-term facilities, residents are often sorely lacking the feeling that they are needed. Pets allow them, even if for a short time, to be nurturers once again. Also, in a very real physical sense, residents can stroke their warm, furry visitors, facilitating social behavior and encouraging physical movement.

Dogs love almost everyone without prejudice and they eliminate the language barrier. One nurse made this comment about a resident after a visit with a Therapy Dog, “She is the calmest I have seen her today. The dogs have tremendously reduced her high anxiety level.” Dogs, because of their social natures, often genuinely like people and choose to be around them in addition to their owners/handlers. Often, they are aware of illness and sadness and WANT to provide companionship and comfort; they are both intuitive and compassionate. It is always a joy to see them detect sorrow and watch them lick tears away.

Dogs are an antidote to depression - and an easy pill to take. Life in a long-term care facility can be lonely and boring. A visit from a Therapy Dog can break the daily routine and stimulate the mind in dramatic ways. The most serious problem for older adults is not of disease; it’s loneliness. Therapy Dogs and their handlers can make a resident come alive, ultimately, inviting residents back to the world outside the facility in which they live....

Therapy Dogs are highly trained working dogs. They must be tested, observed, and certified by a national Therapy Dog Registry which provides insurance and identification dog tags. I am aware of three registries in the US; Therapy Dogs, Inc., Therapy Dogs International, and the Delta Society. Local registries also exist. All of the registries require a dog to pass a test that verifies it is neither human nor animal aggressive and that the handler is firmly in control. Dogs are screened to make sure they are suitable for the volunteer work that they will perform. The testers are usually certified by letters of recommendation from dog trainers or others who are similarly qualified. Following certification, the handler/canine candidate accompanies an existing team including a certified evaluator to a hospital or nursing home for three to five observed visits. After the tester and observers sign the proper paperwork, the handler can submit an application for membership in a therapy dog organization....

Another way to utilize Therapy Dogs at a facility, a way that is not mutually exclusive from the above method, is to invite members of a Therapy Dog organization to make scheduled visits. I bring my two German Shepherds in to interact with the residents one-on-one in their rooms. I also bring them to the recreation center or living room as a scheduled event.

Since some people are afraid of guard dog breeds, I always have mine in costumes. They dress as clowns, or cows, or in outfits related to the season. In hospitals, they dress in hospital scrubs with stethoscopes, masks, and beepers. That alone is enough to get the attention of even those people who aren't fond of dogs. Sadly, my dogs are the only visitors that some people get and they hug and pat and play with them just as if they are family members....

While it may be difficult to quantify the benefits of dog therapy with hard scientific, empirical fact, the magical interaction possible between animal and human can be unmistakable. Tears dry. Frowns transform to smiles. Inactive hands caress soft fur. Silence becomes a conversation of coos whispered in a dog's ear.

Dogs offer themselves to patients with joy, unconditional love, great affection, and boundless patience. They can have a profound ability to touch residents not engaged by other kinds of therapies. Perhaps this is because they offer themselves in a non-threatening, wordless way that speaks love and attention.

Indeed, there is no greater therapy than the love of a dog.

— excerpted and adapted from “Therapy Dogs in the
Long-Term Health Care Environment”
www.therapydogs.org

6 After reading the passage aloud once, say:

You may take a few minutes to look over **The Situation** and your notes.
(Pause) Now I will read the passage aloud a second time.

7 Read the passage a second time.

8 After the second reading, say:

Now turn to page 4 of your examination booklet, read the directions, and answer the multiple-choice questions. Be sure to follow all the directions given in your examination booklet and your essay booklet. You may now begin.

