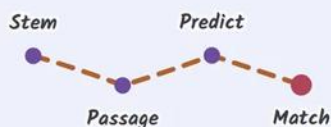


one short passage, one question: say what it is mainly doing

How the section is built, and why it changes your reading

- Reading and Writing is 54 questions in 64 minutes, two modules of 27 questions in 32 minutes, so the average is about 71 seconds a question
- every question carries its own short passage, roughly 25 to 150 words, and no other question uses it
- so there is nothing to gain by reading ahead: the passage IS the question, read it when you reach it
- questions are grouped by domain inside a module and run roughly easiest to hardest within the group, which is what makes skipping and returning safe
- four choices, no penalty for a wrong answer, so a blank scores exactly what a guess scores: never leave one
- the test adapts, module 1 decides whether module 2 comes in the easier or the harder form



four stops in order along one dashed path, stem first and matching last, with no line running back: on this question type you do not re-read the passage after the choices

pacing for this chapter: a main-idea question on a 60 word passage should close in about 60 seconds, and the time you bank here is what pays for the hard end of the group

Read the stem first. Which of the three is it asking for

asks what the passage is mainly about, or states its main idea

Main idea

the answer covers the whole passage, not one line of it

asks what the passage says or states about one named thing

Supporting detail

the answer is findable, one or two lines carry it

asks what a quoted phrase or sentence means as used here

Paraphrase

restate the phrase yourself before you look down

the three want different sizes of answer, and picking the wrong size is the most common way to miss one of these