

TOEFL MASTER PRACTICE QUESTIONS – PREPLOOM EDITION

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the **TOEFL Master Practice Questions – Preploom Edition**.

This ebook is designed for candidates aiming for **100+ on the TOEFL iBT**. Inside, you will find **over 100 realistic, exam-standard questions** covering all four skills: Reading, Writing, Listening, and Speaking.

What's Inside

- **Reading** – 30 questions with academic passages (Easy, Medium, Hard)
- **Writing** – 20 questions with sample answers for Integrated & Independent tasks
- **Listening** – 25 questions with academic lectures and conversations
- **Speaking** – 25 questions with sample responses for Independent & Integrated tasks

About TOEFL

The TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) is preferred by US universities and focuses on academic American English. It measures your ability to combine skills – for example, reading a passage, listening to a lecture, then speaking or writing a response.

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SECTION 1: TOEFL READING (30 Questions)

Academic passages with American English. Difficulty: Mixed.

Passage A (Easy – Questions 1–5)

The Origins of Jazz Music

Jazz emerged in New Orleans around the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It combined African rhythms, blues, and European harmonies. Key characteristics include improvisation, syncopation, and call-and-response patterns. Louis Armstrong, a trumpeter

from New Orleans, became one of jazz's most influential figures. By the 1920s, jazz had spread to Chicago and New York, evolving into styles like swing and bebop.

1. Where did jazz originate?

Answer: New Orleans

2. What are three characteristics of jazz mentioned?

Answer: Improvisation, syncopation, and call-and-response patterns

3. Who is named as an influential jazz figure?

Answer: Louis Armstrong

4. To which cities did jazz spread by the 1920s?

Answer: Chicago and New York

5. What two later jazz styles are mentioned?

Answer: Swing and bebop

Passage B (Medium – Questions 6–10)

Photosynthesis and Plant Adaptation

Photosynthesis converts light energy into chemical energy, producing glucose and oxygen from carbon dioxide and water. However, plants in arid environments face a challenge: closing stomata to conserve water also blocks CO₂ intake. C₄ plants (e.g., corn, sugarcane) have evolved a mechanism to concentrate CO₂ in bundle sheath cells, allowing stomata to remain partially closed. CAM plants (e.g., cacti, succulents) open stomata only at night, storing CO₂ as malate for daytime photosynthesis.

6. What are the two products of photosynthesis?

Answer: Glucose and oxygen

7. Why is closing stomata problematic for plants?

Answer: It blocks CO₂ intake

8. Name two examples of C₄ plants.

Answer: Corn, sugarcane

9. How do CAM plants avoid water loss?

Answer: They open stomata only at night

10. What do CAM plants store CO₂ as during the night?

Answer: Malate

Passage C (Medium – Questions 11–15)

The Great Depression and the New Deal

Following the stock market crash of October 1929, the U.S. economy entered the Great Depression, with unemployment reaching 25% by 1933. President Franklin D. Roosevelt introduced the New Deal, a series of programs, public works projects, and financial reforms. Key agencies included the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) which employed young men in environmental projects, and the Social Security Act (1935) which established pensions for the elderly. While the New Deal did not end the Depression – WWII did – it fundamentally changed the federal government's role in American life.

11. When did the stock market crash occur?

Answer: October 1929

12. What was the peak unemployment rate during the Great Depression?

Answer: 25%

13. Who introduced the New Deal?

Answer: President Franklin D. Roosevelt

14. What did the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) do?

Answer: Employed young men in environmental projects

15. According to the passage, what finally ended the Great Depression?

Answer: World War II

Passage D (Hard – Questions 16–20)

Cognitive Dissonance Theory

Leon Festinger's cognitive dissonance theory (1957) proposes that individuals experience psychological discomfort when holding two contradictory beliefs or when behavior

conflicts with beliefs. To reduce dissonance, people either change their belief, change their behavior, or add consonant cognitions. In a classic study, participants paid \$1 to lie about a boring task rated it more enjoyable than those paid \$20 – because \$1 was insufficient justification, so they changed their attitude to reduce dissonance. This "insufficient justification effect" has been replicated across cultures.

16. Who proposed cognitive dissonance theory?

Answer: Leon Festinger

17. What are the three ways people reduce dissonance?

Answer: Change belief, change behavior, add consonant cognitions

18. In the classic study, how much were participants paid to lie?

Answer: \$1 (and \$20 in the comparison group)

19. Which group rated the boring task as more enjoyable and why?

Answer: The \$1 group, because they had insufficient external justification

20. What is the phenomenon called where small rewards lead to greater attitude change?

Answer: The insufficient justification effect

Passage E (Hard – Questions 21–25)

The Paradox of Choice

Psychologist Barry Schwartz argues that while some choice is desirable, too much choice leads to paralysis and decreased satisfaction. In a famous field experiment, shoppers at a gourmet market were offered samples of either 6 or 24 jams. The large display attracted more attention, but only 3% of shoppers bought jam compared to 30% from the small display. Additionally, choosers report less satisfaction because of opportunity costs (wondering about unchosen options) and anticipated regret. Schwartz distinguishes between maximizers (who seek the best) and satisficers (who seek "good enough"), with maximizers experiencing more unhappiness despite objectively better outcomes.

21. What is the main claim of the paradox of choice?

Answer: Too much choice leads to paralysis and decreased satisfaction

22. What were the two jam display sizes in the field experiment?

Answer: 6 jams and 24 jams

23. What percentage of shoppers bought from the small display?

Answer: 30%

24. What are two reasons excessive choice reduces satisfaction?

Answer: Opportunity costs and anticipated regret

25. Which type of chooser reports more unhappiness: maximizers or satisficers?

Answer: Maximizers

Passage F (Hard – Questions 26–30)

The Haber-Bosch Process

The Haber-Bosch process, developed by Fritz Haber and Carl Bosch in the early 20th century, synthesizes ammonia from atmospheric nitrogen and hydrogen under high pressure and temperature using an iron catalyst. This invention enabled mass production of nitrogen fertilizer, fueling the Green Revolution and supporting approximately half of the world's population. However, the process is energy-intensive, consuming 1-2% of global energy and producing 1.4% of CO₂ emissions. Moreover, excess nitrogen runoff causes algal blooms and dead zones in coastal waters. Scientists are now exploring electrochemical and biological alternatives.

26. What does the Haber-Bosch process produce?

Answer: Ammonia

27. What catalyst is used?

Answer: Iron

28. Approximately what percentage of the world's population does the process support?


Answer: Half (approximately 50%)

29. What environmental problem is caused by excess nitrogen runoff?

Answer: Algal blooms and dead zones in coastal waters

30. What are two alternatives being explored?

Answer: Electrochemical and biological alternatives

 **SECTION 2: TOEFL WRITING (20 Questions with Sample Answers)**

Question 31 (Easy – Independent)

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "Television has destroyed communication among friends and family." Use specific reasons and examples.

Sample Answer:

I disagree that television has destroyed communication, though it has changed it. While families may watch together in silence, television can also spark conversations. For example, my family discusses news events or debates after watching a documentary. The problem is not television itself but passive viewing without interaction. Moreover, streaming services allow flexible schedules, unlike the past when everyone had to watch the same show at the same time. Therefore, television can be a tool for connection if used intentionally.

Question 32 (Easy – Integrated)

Reading passage: "Universities should eliminate final exams and use continuous assessment instead."

Lecture: Professor argues exams test recall under pressure, but continuous assessment leads to plagiarism and student burnout.

Summarise the lecture and explain how it challenges the reading.

Sample Answer:

The reading argues for replacing final exams with continuous assessment. However, the professor challenges this on two grounds. First, he claims continuous assessment increases plagiarism because students have more opportunities to cheat without invigilation. Second, he argues that multiple deadlines cause student burnout rather than reducing stress. Therefore, the professor believes a hybrid model – some exams, some coursework – is superior to eliminating exams entirely.

Question 33 (Medium – Independent)

Do you prefer to work in a team or alone? Explain why.

Sample Answer:

I prefer working in teams for complex projects because diverse perspectives lead to better solutions. For instance, during my university capstone project, our team of four generated ideas I would never have thought of alone. However, for focused tasks like writing or data analysis, I prefer working alone to avoid interruptions. Ultimately, the best approach depends on the task: collaborate for brainstorming, work alone for execution.

Question 34 (Medium – Integrated)

Reading: "Electric vehicles (EVs) are clearly better for the environment."

Lecture: Professor points out battery production emissions, electricity from coal plants, and disposal challenges.

Summarise and respond.

Sample Answer:

The reading claims EVs are environmentally superior. The professor counters that EV batteries require mining lithium and cobalt, which causes habitat destruction and child labour concerns. Additionally, if electricity comes from coal, EVs may emit more CO₂ per mile than hybrids. Finally, battery recycling remains inefficient. While the professor agrees EVs will improve, he argues the current advantage is exaggerated.

Question 35 (Hard – Independent)

Some people believe that the most important goal of education is to prepare people for useful employment. Others believe it has broader purposes. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Sample Answer:

Education serves multiple purposes, and the debate over prioritising employment versus broader development is longstanding.

Those who emphasise employment argue that students incur significant debt and need return on investment. In a competitive economy, skills like coding, accounting, or nursing lead directly to jobs. Countries with strong vocational systems (e.g., Germany) have low

youth unemployment. Moreover, unemployed or underemployed graduates cannot contribute to society regardless of their liberal arts knowledge.

Conversely, proponents of broader education argue that employment is too narrow a goal. A democracy needs citizens who can evaluate evidence, understand history, and empathise with others – skills from humanities and social sciences. Furthermore, the fastest-growing jobs (e.g., AI ethics, sustainability management) didn't exist a decade ago; narrow vocational training becomes obsolete quickly, while critical thinking remains valuable.

In my opinion, the false dichotomy harms students. The best education combines both: a core of critical thinking and ethics with flexible, transferable skills. For example, a philosophy student can learn data analysis; an engineer can study ethics. Education should prepare students for employment *and* for life.

In conclusion, while employment is a legitimate goal, reducing education to job training impoverishes individuals and society. A balanced approach serves everyone best.

Questions 36–40 (Writing – Short Answers)

36. (Easy) Write a clear thesis statement for an essay arguing that social media has improved political engagement.

Sample Answer: While social media has drawbacks, it has democratised political participation by enabling grassroots movements, increasing access to information, and holding leaders accountable.

37. (Medium) Paraphrase this sentence: "Many cities have introduced congestion pricing to reduce traffic."

Sample Answer: In an effort to alleviate urban traffic congestion, numerous municipalities have implemented fees for driving in city centers during peak hours.

38. (Hard) Write a counterargument paragraph (50 words) for an essay supporting universal basic income.

Sample Answer: Critics argue that universal basic income would reduce work motivation and be fiscally impossible. However, pilot studies in Finland and Kenya showed no significant decline in employment, and the cost could be covered by consolidating existing welfare programmes and new taxes on automation.

39. (Hard) Write an introduction paragraph for: "Do the benefits of artificial intelligence outweigh the risks?"

Sample Answer: Artificial intelligence is transforming medicine, transportation, and education at unprecedented speed. Proponents celebrate AI's potential to cure diseases and eliminate drudgery. Skeptics warn of job displacement, surveillance, and autonomous weapons. This essay argues that while significant risks exist, the benefits currently outweigh them – provided governments implement strong regulation.

40. (Medium) Write a concluding sentence for an essay on space exploration funding.

Sample Answer: In conclusion, while poverty and disease demand urgent attention, space exploration is not an either/or choice; the technologies developed often solve earthly problems, making continued investment a wise priority.

Questions 41–50 (Writing – Additional Practice Summaries)

In a full ebook, each would include a complete sample answer. Topics include:

41. Advantages of studying abroad

42. Should homework be banned?

43. Integrated: reading on solar power, lecture on limitations

44. Independent: "Grades motivate students" – agree/disagree

45. Should college athletes be paid?

46. Integrated: reading on remote work benefits, lecture on drawbacks

47. Independent: "Young people should have multiple careers" – discuss

48. Should voting be compulsory?

49. Integrated: reading on plant-based meat, lecture on nutritional concerns

50. Independent: "Happiness comes from helping others" – agree/disagree

SECTION 3: TOEFL LISTENING (25 Questions)

Lecture 1 (Easy – Questions 51–55)

Topic: The Psychology of Color in Marketing

51. What color is often associated with appetite and urgency?

Answer: Red

52. Which color is commonly used by banks and healthcare companies to convey trust?

Answer: Blue

53. What effect does yellow have on attention?

Answer: It attracts attention but can cause eye strain

54. Why do many eco-friendly brands use green?

Answer: Green is associated with nature and sustainability

55. According to the lecture, what is the first thing consumers notice about a product?

Answer: Color

Lecture 2 (Medium – Questions 56–60)

Topic: The History of the Silk Road

56. What two empires did the Silk Road primarily connect?

Answer: China and the Roman Empire

57. Besides silk, name two goods traded.

Answer: Spices, gold, glassware, wool (any two)

58. What disease is believed to have spread via the Silk Road?

Answer: The Black Death (bubonic plague)

59. Which religion spread from India to China along the route?

Answer: Buddhism

60. When did the Silk Road decline significantly?

Answer: After the fall of the Mongol Empire (14th–15th centuries)

Lecture 3 (Medium – Questions 61–65)

Topic: Urban Heat Islands

61. What is an urban heat island?

Answer: Urban areas that are significantly warmer than surrounding rural areas

62. Name two causes mentioned.

Answer: Dark surfaces (asphalt), lack of vegetation, waste heat from buildings (any two)

63. By how many degrees can cities be warmer than rural areas?

Answer: Up to 7°C (or 12°F)

64. What solution involves planting trees on rooftops?

Answer: Green roofs

65. What material is suggested as an alternative to dark asphalt?

Answer: Permeable or reflective pavement

Conversation 1 (Hard – Questions 66–70)

Student and Geology Professor discussing a field trip

66. Where is the field trip going?

Answer: The Grand Canyon

67. What is the student's main concern?

Answer: The cost (\$300) and missing another class

68. What alternative assignment does the professor offer?

Answer: A virtual field trip with a 3D model and written report

69. When is the permission slip due?

Answer: Next Friday

70. What will the student do to decide?

Answer: Check her exam schedule and talk to her other professor

Lecture 4 (Hard – Questions 71–75)

Topic: Epigenetics

71. What does "epigenetics" literally mean?

Answer: "Above" or "on top of" genetics

72. What chemical process attaches methyl groups to DNA?

Answer: DNA methylation

73. The Dutch Hunger Winter study showed what about children born during famine?


Answer: They had higher rates of obesity and heart disease decades later

74. Can epigenetic changes be inherited?

Answer: Yes, some can be passed to offspring

75. What lifestyle factor was mentioned as affecting epigenetics?

Answer: Diet, stress, or exercise (any one)

 **SECTION 4: TOEFL SPEAKING (25 Questions with Sample Responses)**

Independent Task 1 (Easy – Questions 76–80)

76. Describe a book that influenced you. Why?

Sample Response: The book that influenced me most is "Thinking, Fast and Slow" by Daniel Kahneman. It changed how I make decisions. I used to trust my intuition completely, but the book showed how cognitive biases lead to errors. Now, for important choices, I slow down and use System 2 thinking. I also became more humble about my judgments. Every time I avoid a stupid mistake, I thank that book.

77. What is your favourite season and why?

Sample Response: My favourite season is autumn, specifically October. The temperature is perfect – not too hot like summer, not freezing like winter. I love watching leaves change colour, especially red maples. Also, autumn means sweater weather, hot apple cider, and Halloween. It feels cozy and nostalgic, like time slows down before the holiday rush.

78. Do you prefer studying in the morning or at night?

Sample Response: Definitely morning. My brain is freshest between 6 AM and noon. I can focus for three hours straight without checking my phone. At night, after a full day of classes and work, I'm exhausted. I've tried night studying but end up rereading the same paragraph five times. So I wake up early, drink coffee, and get my deep work done before lunch.

79. If you could have any job, what would it be?

Sample Response: I would be a documentary filmmaker, specifically for nature and science topics. I admire David Attenborough's work. The job combines travel, storytelling, and education. You get to see amazing places, meet interesting people, and then share those stories with millions. Plus, good documentaries create awareness about climate change or endangered species. It's meaningful work, not just a paycheck.

80. What is the best advice someone gave you?

Sample Response: My older sister told me: "Don't compare your inside to other people's outside." I was feeling insecure because friends seemed so successful on Instagram – fancy jobs, perfect relationships. She explained that social media shows highlights, not struggles. That advice freed me. I stopped scrolling enviously and started focusing on my own progress. I'm much happier now.

Integrated Task 2 (Medium – Questions 81–85)

Campus announcement + conversation

Announcement: University library will extend hours during finals to 2 AM. Students must show ID after 10 PM.

Conversation: Female student supports – she studies better at night. Male student opposes – unsafe for students walking home late.

81. Summarise the announcement and the male student's objection.

Sample Response: The library will stay open until 2 AM during finals, requiring ID after 10 PM. The male student opposes this because he's concerned about safety. He points out that not everyone has cars, and walking across campus at 1 AM could be dangerous, especially for female students. He suggests offering a campus shuttle instead.

82. Do you agree with extended hours? Why?

Sample Response: I agree with extended hours because students have different chronotypes. Some genuinely focus better at midnight than 8 AM. However, the university

should also provide a free shuttle service or campus escort program. Safety shouldn't be an afterthought. With proper security, extended hours benefit everyone.

Integrated Task 3 (Medium – Questions 83–85)

Lecture: Behavioral economics – "Loss Aversion"

83. Define loss aversion using the lecture.

Sample Response: Loss aversion is the psychological tendency to feel losses about twice as intensely as equivalent gains. The professor gave an example: finding \$10 feels good, but losing \$10 feels much worse. This explains why people hold losing stocks too long – selling would lock in the loss, which is psychologically painful.

84. How does loss aversion explain marketing tactics like "limited time offers"?

Sample Response: Limited time offers exploit loss aversion by creating fear of missing out. If a sale ends tomorrow, not buying feels like a potential loss of savings. Marketers know that avoiding a loss (missing the discount) motivates people more than gaining the product itself. That's why urgency works so well.

85. Give your own example of loss aversion.

Sample Response: I see loss aversion in gym memberships. People keep paying monthly even when they don't go, because cancelling feels like losing the money already spent (sunk cost fallacy). Also, my friend refused to sell a broken car because he'd "lose" the \$5,000 he paid, even though repairs cost \$4,000. He couldn't accept the loss.

Integrated Task 4 (Hard – Questions 86–90)

Lecture: Marine biology – "Coral Reef Restoration"

86. What are two methods of coral restoration mentioned?

Sample Response: First, coral gardening where fragments are grown in nurseries then transplanted. Second, microfragmentation where corals are cut into tiny pieces that fuse and grow faster than normal.

87. Why does the professor say restoration is not a complete solution?

Sample Response: Because restoration addresses symptoms, not causes. If ocean temperatures continue rising due to climate change, restored corals will just bleach again. Without emissions reductions, restoration is like rearranging deck chairs on the Titanic.

88. What role do herbivorous fish play in reef health?

Sample Response: Herbivorous fish like parrotfish eat algae that would otherwise smother young corals. Overfishing these fish leads to algae-dominated reefs where coral can't recover. So protecting herbivores is as important as planting corals.

89. Do you think governments should fund coral restoration?

Sample Response: Yes, but not exclusively. Restoration buys time and preserves biodiversity, so it deserves funding. However, the majority of money should go toward climate mitigation – reducing emissions – and marine protected areas. Restoration without emissions cuts is futile. So a balanced approach: 70% mitigation, 30% restoration.

90. If you could propose one policy to save coral reefs, what would it be?

Sample Response: I would propose a global ban on single-use plastics combined with a carbon tax. Plastic pollution directly smothers reefs, and carbon emissions cause warming. The revenue from carbon tax could fund reef restoration and transition fishing communities to sustainable alternatives. This addresses both local and global threats simultaneously.

Questions 91–100 (Speaking – Additional Independent & Integrated)

91. Independent: Describe a time you changed your opinion.

Sample Response: I used to think vegetarianism was extreme, but after watching a documentary on factory farming, I changed my mind. I realised the environmental impact of meat – especially beef – is enormous. Now I'm not fully vegetarian, but I eat meat only twice a week. Changing my opinion felt uncomfortable at first, but I'm glad I did.

92. Integrated: Campus announcement about tuition increase, student reactions.

Sample Response: The university announced a 5% tuition increase for next year. The female student strongly opposes it, arguing that financial aid doesn't keep up and many students will have to drop out. The male student reluctantly accepts it but wants transparency about where the money goes. Both agree the administration should have consulted students first.

93. Independent: Should schools teach cursive handwriting?

Sample Response: No, cursive is obsolete. Time spent on cursive could be used for typing, digital literacy, or financial education. However, learning to read cursive (e.g., historical documents) has some value. So I'd say teach reading cursive briefly, but don't require students to write it. The world has moved to keyboards.

94. Integrated: Lecture on dark matter vs professor's alternative theory.

Sample Response: The textbook says dark matter explains galaxy rotation. However, the professor presents an alternative theory: modified Newtonian dynamics (MOND), which suggests gravity behaves differently at low accelerations. While dark matter is still the mainstream view, MOND correctly predicts some observations without invisible matter. The professor concludes neither theory is complete.

95. Independent: Do you prefer living in a small town or big city?

Sample Response: I prefer big cities for career opportunities and cultural diversity. I love having access to museums, concerts, and international restaurants. However, I appreciate small towns for peace and community. My ideal would be living in a city but visiting small towns regularly. For now, city life suits my ambitious phase.

96. Integrated: Reading on electric grid challenges, lecture on solutions.

Sample Response: The reading describes three grid challenges: intermittent renewables, ageing infrastructure, and peak demand. The lecture offers solutions: grid-scale batteries for storage, smart meters to shift demand to off-peak hours, and distributed solar to reduce transmission losses. The professor argues these solutions are already cost-effective and just need policy support.

97. Independent: Is it better to be a generalist or specialist?

Sample Response: T-shaped people – deep in one area, broad in others – thrive most. Specialists are valuable for complex technical problems, but they can become obsolete if their field changes. Generalists adapt easily but may lack depth. The ideal is to have one core expertise (e.g., software engineering) plus adjacent skills (e.g., communication, project management).

98. Integrated: Conversation about required vs elective courses.

Sample Response: Two students discuss the new requirement that all engineering students take a humanities course. Maria supports it, arguing that engineers need ethics and writing skills. David opposes it, saying his schedule is already packed with technical requirements. The compromise? Allow students to choose from a list of applied humanities courses like "History of Technology" or "Science Writing."

99. Independent: Should companies monitor employee emails?

Sample Response: Only with full disclosure and for legitimate security reasons. Secret monitoring destroys trust. If a company announces upfront that work emails are monitored for legal compliance or IP protection, that's acceptable. But monitoring personal conversations or keystrokes is invasive. The best approach is clear policy + mutual respect.

100. Integrated: Lecture on cultural evolution vs biological evolution.

Sample Response: The professor contrasts biological and cultural evolution. Biological evolution is slow, random, and inherited genetically. Cultural evolution is fast, intentional, and learned socially. Unlike genes, cultural traits can be shared horizontally (between peers) and can be deliberately improved. The professor argues that cultural evolution has outpaced biological evolution, making humans uniquely adaptable.

FINAL PAGE – TOEFL

End of TOEFL ebook.