

Sample of the reading comprehension portion for the ATIA Associate-level examination

The reading comprehension portion of the exam consists of 4 passages of varying lengths followed by 5 questions in multiple-choice format.

Sample Passage 1:

The hippopotamus is the third largest land animal, smaller only than the elephant and the rhinoceros. Its name comes from two Greek words which mean "river horse." The long name of this animal is often shortened to the easier to handle term "hippo."

The hippo has a natural affinity for the water. It does not float on top of the water; instead, it can easily walk along the bottom of a body of water. The hippo commonly remains underwater for three to five minutes and has been known to stay under for up to half an hour before coming up for air.

In spite of its name, the hippo has relatively little in common with the horse and instead has a number of interesting similarities in common with the whale. When a hippo comes up after a stay at the bottom of a lake or river, it releases air through a blowhole, just like a whale. In addition, the hippo resembles the whale in that they both have thick layers of blubber for protection and they are almost completely hairless.

- The topic of this passage is
a ___ the largest land animals c ___ the characteristics of the hippo
b ___ the derivations of animal names d ___ the relation between the hippo and the whale
- It can be inferred from the passage that the rhinoceros is
a ___ smaller than the hippo c ___ a hybrid of the hippo and the elephant
b ___ equal in size to the hippo d ___ one of the two largest types of land animals
- The possessive "Its" in line 2 refers to
a ___ hippopotamus c ___ rhinoceros
b ___ elephant d ___ horse
- The expression "has relatively little in common" in the third paragraph could best be replaced by
a ___ has few interactions c ___ has minimal experience
b ___ is not normally found d ___ shares few similarities
- The word "blubber" in paragraph 3 is closest in meaning to
a ___ fat c ___ water
b ___ fur d ___ skin

Solutions:

1 c; 2 d; 3 a; 4 d; 5 a

