

Florida's  
Postsecondary Education  
Readiness Test  
(P.E.R.T.)  
Study Guide

## Introduction

The purpose of Florida's Postsecondary Education Readiness Test (P.E.R.T.) is to adequately assess your academic skills in mathematics, reading and writing through the delivery of three assessments, one for each of these areas. The results of these assessments are used to determine your placement in appropriate courses at your college.

You cannot pass or fail the P.E.R.T. – it is only used to determine which courses are best for you. While it doesn't impact your grades,



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From these beginnings, Benjamin West became a great and famous painter. In 1763 he moved to England and never returned to America. Although he taught himself to paint, he was happy to teach younger artists, especially ones who traveled from the United States to study with him. For this reason, West is often called the father of American art.

1. Which of the following statements is the best summary of this selection?

A. Benjamin West drew pictures of his wife and a robin. Then, he became interested in painting.

Read the selection and answer questions that follow.

### King of the Sea

Thor Heyerdahl, a famous adventurer from Norway, could not swim. He nearly drowned more than once when he was a sea traveler. For a long time he was afraid of water. It's surprising, then, to learn that he spent much of his life sailing delicate boats on the world's oceans.

In 1947, Heyerdahl set off on his first great adventure. He hoped to cross the Pacific Ocean from South America to Polynesia. Heyerdahl thought that early people might have migrated to Polynesia thousands of years ago by sea. He believed he could follow this route in a simple raft. He would show it was possible.

Heyerdahl constructed a raft of balsa wood and set out to cross the Pacific Ocean. This wood is so light that today it is used to build model airplanes. Critics thought the raft would get waterlogged and sink, but they were wrong. The raft, called the Kon-Tiki, landed in Polynesia after about 100 days at sea.

On another trip, in 1969, Heyerdahl tried to sail across the Atlantic Ocean from North Africa to the Caribbean. His first boat for this trip was the Ra; it was made of reeds. The design was based on ancient drawings found on a wall in Egypt. After the Ra broke apart, Heyerdahl did not give up. A year later, he set off in a new boat, called the Ra II, and made the 2,200-mile trip successfully.

The Norwegian explorer became well known through the books he wrote about his adventures at sea. His book about the voyage on the Kon-Tiki sold 25 million copies.

Heyerdahl believed that his voyages proved his theory that peoples of long ago sailed to distant places. This could explain why similar cultures have shown up in places that were far removed from each other. For example, it could explain why pyramids are found both in Egypt and in Mexico, even though these countries are on opposite sides of the world.

Today, experts don't generally accept Heyerdahl's voyages as proof of his theories. Still, he is viewed as a remarkable sea-going explorer, and that's not bad for a boy who was once afraid of the water.

5. Which evidence in this selection best supports the theory that people migrated across the Atlantic Ocean thousands of years ago?
- A. Heyerdahl made a raft of balsa wood found in South America.
  - B. The Ra was based on a design from a drawing found in Egypt.
  - C. Heyerdahl made a boat of reeds, but it broke apart.
  - D. Ancient pyramids have been found in both Mexico and Egypt.

6. In what way were the two voyages described in this selection alike?
- A. Heyerdahl used the same boat for both voyages.
  - B. Heyerdahl was trying to prove the same theory on both voyages.
  - C. Both voyages followed the same route.
  - D. Both voyages succeeded on the first attempt.
7. According to this passage, the purpose of Heyerdahl's first voyage in 1947 was to —
- A. sail across the Atlantic Ocean in a reed boat.
  - B. prove you can become famous by sailing long distances.
  - C. learn how to build a simple raft of balsa wood.
  - D. show that the Polynesians could have crossed the Pacific Ocean.

Read the selection and answer questions that follow.

### Sacajawea Saves the Day

The baby squirmed in his basket, and Sacajawea hummed quietly to soothe him. At three months old, he was a strong, healthy child and was already used to life in the wilderness. The young mother knew the little boy would soon fall into a peaceful sleep, lulled by the rocking motion of the river. Sacajawea closed her eyes and rested. She carried little Pompy on her back night and day, but she never failed to keep up with her companions. Under the leadership of Lewis and Clark, she and a large band of men were on a great journey to explore the western wilderness.

For now, things were going well. Just that morning Sacajawea had found an abundant supply of edible roots—enough to satisfy the hunger of all the men in the group. Captain Clark had praised her warmly and recorded the event in his journal. The men, at first suspicious of the Shoshone woman with the child, now welcomed her as an important member of the group.

Sacajawea dozed quietly until a sudden clatter awakened her. Rain began to fall, and a sudden strong wind nearly knocked her over. The boat tipped. Bundles of supplies slid toward the water. Suddenly the boat overturned, and Sacajawea fell into the river. She struggled to keep Pompy's head above the rushing water. Captain Clark shouted; another man screamed. Sacajawea reached for her son, strapped in the basket on her back. A wail told her that he was fine, though cold and wet.

The water was not deep, but the current was strong. The men worked frantically to right the overturned boat. No one but Sacajawea noticed the bundles bobbing in the water. As they spun farther away from the boat, Sacajawea grabbed an overhanging





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