## THE SIMULATED ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENT

For each item status, enter "Contains Bias" or "Not Biased" where indicated.

If biased, describe in a sentence or two how the item is biased. Provide specific suggestions for revising the item to eliminate bias.

1. Mr. Alvarez is a salesman for a furniture store. Last week, Mr. Alvarez's sales receipts totaled $25,436. This week, Mr. Alvarez's sales receipts totaled $32,199. How much more did Mr. Alvarez's sales receipts total this week than last week?

    A. $ 3,363
    B. $ 6,763
    C. $13,363
    D. $16,763

**Item Status: Contains gender bias because salesman only represents men. To rewrite the question you could keep or omit the salesperson's name.**

**Comments and revision(s) A salesperson for a furniture store sales receipts totaled $24,436 last week. This week their sales receipt total was $32,199. How much more did the salesperson's sales receipts total this week than last week?**

2. Students in the Physics & Astronomy Club are buying telescopes to watch the upcoming lunar eclipse. They found comparable telescopes, at the following prices, each either on sale or with a special pricing offer:

| Name of Student | Original Price | Special Offer |
|---|---|---|
| Russell | $ 600.00 | 10% off |
| Louis | $ 450.00 | 15% off |
| Amy | $ 550.00 | $50 rebate |
| Stan | $ 500.00 | 5% off original price and $35 rebate |
| Bernie | $ 480.00 | $40 rebate |
| Mike | $ 500.00 | 12% off |

According to the table, which student saved the most?

A. Russell
B. Louis
C. Amy
D. Mike

**Item Status:**
1. **gender biased**
2. **ethnic biased**
3. **I would also argue that this question has elitist biased because not many school clubs can purchase multiple telescopes to watch a single event unless their parent teacher organization is helping or they did a ton of fundraising.**

**Comments and revision(s) (if necessary): It is gender biased because mostly males are associated with being part of the Physics and Astronomy club. There should be even representation of girls and boys in the question.**

**It would be nice to include names of other ethnicities, as well. I would change the names to Russell, Juan, Jamaal, Amy, Shaniqua and Maria**

3. A teacher needs help carrying a class set of textbooks to the department office. The teacher asks five students to carry the 35 books. If each student carried the same number of books, how many books did each student carry?

    A. 5
    B. 6
    C. 7
    D. 8


    **Item Status:**
    **Not biased**

    **Comments and revision(s) (if necessary):**

4. The Johnsons are considering hiring an *au pair* for their child. One very good applicant requests a stipend of $800 per month and health insurance, which will cost them an additional $250 per month. Comparable daycare would cost them $300 per week. What is the cost difference between the *au pair* and daycare for a full year?

    a. The *au pair* will cost $3,000 more.
    b. Daycare will cost $3,000 more.
    c. Daycare will cost $1,440 more.
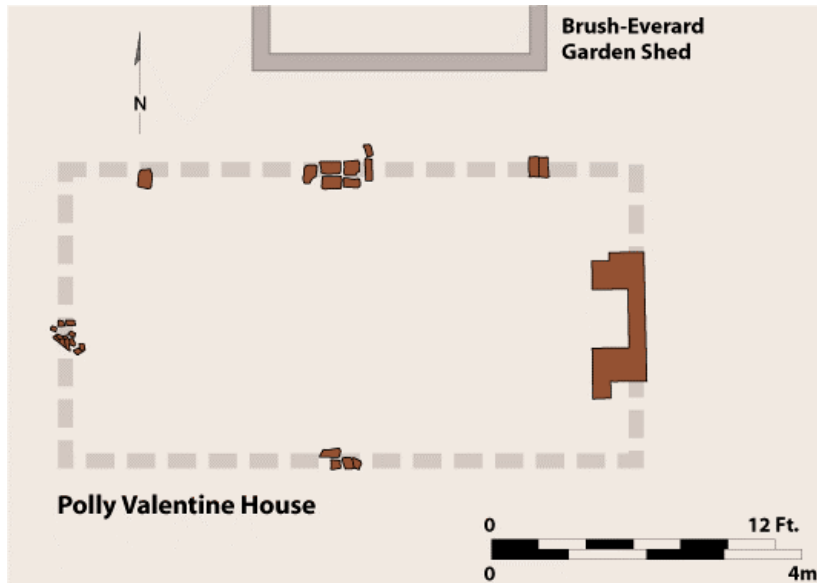    d. There is no difference in cost.

**Item Status:**
**Contains elite bias as some students, including myself, have no idea what an au pair is.  Depending on the ages of the test takers, this content may be too out of range for their experience level. For instance, a younger student may not understand the relevance of insurance.  The word stipend is also out of the knowledge base of most students; a better choice would be the word payment. This question also assumes that a student will know how many weeks there are in a year, so that should be included.**

**Comments and revision(s) (if necessary):**
The Johnsons are considering hiring a nanny for their child. One very good applicant requests a payment of $800 per month and health insurance, which will cost them an additional $250 per month. Comparable daycare would cost them $300 per week (52 weeks). What is the cost difference between the *nanny* and daycare for a full year?

5. Archeologists discovered the home of a mid 19th century slave family. The home was most likely constructed during the 1840s by Nathaniel Beverley Tucker for a slave called Polly Valentine. Valentine and her family lived in this house until the outbreak of the Civil War.



**Mid-19<sup>th</sup> century slave house of Polly Valentine.**
Graphic from http://www.history.org/History/argy/MHPage/Valentine.htm

Use your ruler and the legend to find the perimeter, in feet, of the house.

   A. 12
   B. 24
   C. 36
   D. 72

**Item Status: contains biased because it is offensive in nature because of the slavery reference. Some people, particularly African Americans are going to feel uncomfortable answering this question. Further, the question gives unnecessary context to solve the problem.**

**Comments and revision(s) (if necessary):**
Archeologists discovered a mid-19th century home that was most likely constructed during the 1840s.

6. Loretta's family lives on an Indian reservation in New Mexico. To supplement their meager income, they often sell fry bread at the state fair. The bread, served with honey, sells for $1.50 per portion. Loretta's family sold 80 portions by noon. How much money did they make?

    A. $ 75
    B. $ 120
    A. $ 150
    B. $ 160

**Item Status: ethnicity bias**
**The question connects low income to Indian reservation residents. The question also brings up a sore subject of having to work to make more money in the family. This could be sensitive to some people. The question also contained too much context for the simple equation.**

**Comments and revision(s) (if necessary):**
Loretta's family lives in New Mexico and they sell fry bread at the state fair. The bread, served with honey, sells for $1.50 per portion. Loretta's family sold 80 portions by noon. How much money did they make?

7. Two people baked a total of 66 chocolate chip cookies for their friends. The first baked 6 more than 3 times the number that the second baked. How many cookies did the first person bake?

   A. 18
   B. 20
   C. 51
   D. 80


   **Item Status: not biased**


   **Comments and revision(s) (if necessary):**

8. Mr. Hinton and his wife are making Christmas decorations to give to the old age home. The table below shows the number of Christmas decorations Mr. Hinton and his wife made each day for one week.

| Day | Mr. Hinton | Mr. Hinton's Wife |
|---|---|---|
| Monday | 4 | 7 |
| Tuesday | 3 | 5 |
| Wednesday | 6 | 4 |
| Thursday | 1 | 5 |
| Friday | 5 | 3 |
| Saturday | 9 | 11 |
| Sunday | 7 | 13 |

How many Christmas decorations did Mr. Hinton and his wife make in all during this week?

A. 18
B. 35
C. 52
D. 87

**Item Status:**
1. **Age bias because they said "old age"**
2. **Gender Bias because Mrs. Hinton was referred to as Mr. Hinton's wife and not Mrs. Hinton or by her name. A better approach would be to say Gary and Maria Hinton are making Christmas decorations**
3. **Religious bias because Christmas is mentioned. A better alternative would be to say Holiday Decorations.**

9. **Comments and revision(s) (if necessary):** Mr. Hinton and his wife are making Christmas decorations to donate. The table below shows the number of Christmas decorations Mr. Hinton and his wife made each day for one week.

10.  A cat is trapped on the
    second floor of a burning
    house. To rescue the cat,
    the firefighter gets a
    ladder from his fire truck.
    The only open window is 24
    feet above ground. There is                                    a
    bush along the edge of the
    house, the ladder needs to
    be placed 10 feet from the
    house. How long of a ladder
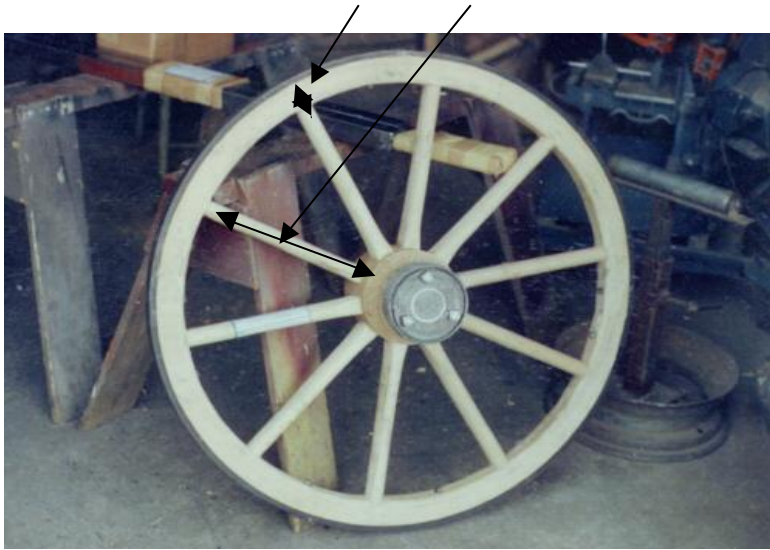    does the firefighter need
    to reach the window?

    A. 25 feet
    B. 26 feet
    C. 27 feet
    D. 28 feet

**Item Status: gender bias**
**The fireman could be a woman so let's say firefighter instead.**
**In addition, the question contains scary content for students.**
**I would suggest a question about a cat in a tree, instead. A**
**student may have experienced a house fire and may fear for the**
**cat.**

**Comments and revision(s) (if necessary):** A cat is trapped on
the second floor of a burning house. To rescue the cat, the
firefighter gets a ladder from the fire truck. The only open
window is 24 feet above ground. There is a bush along the edge
of the house, the ladder needs to be placed 10 feet from the
house. How long of a ladder does the firefighter need to reach
the window?

11. In the wheel pictured above, the wooden rim is approximately 6 inches wide and each spoke is approximately 24 inches long. What is the approximate circumference of this wheel?

   A. 30 inches
   B. 48 inches
   C. 60 inches
   D. 96 inches

**Item Status: not biased**

**Comments and revision(s) (if necessary):**