

## ECAT Pre General Science English Online Test

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|    | <p>The year 2006 was the golden anniversary, or the 50<sup>th</sup> birthday, of the Dwight D. Eisenhower National System of Interstate and Defense Highways. This system, usually referred to as The Interstate Highway System, is a system of freeways named after the U.S. President who supported it. The system is the largest highway system in the world, consisting of 46,876 miles (75,440 km) of freeways. The construction of the interstate highway system is an important part of American history. It has played a major role in <b>preserving</b> and maintaining the America way of life.</p> <p>The interstate highway system has several major functions. One of its major functions is to <b>facilitate</b> the distribution of US good. Because the interstate passes through many downtown areas, it plays an important role in the <b>distribution</b> of almost all goods in the United States. Nearly all products travel at least part of the way to their destination on the Interstate System. Another major function of the interstate is to facilitate military troop movement to and from airports, seaports, rail terminals and other military destinations. The Interstate highways are connected to route in the Strategic Highway Network, which is a system of highways that are <b>vital</b> to the U.S. Department of Defense.</p> <p>Today, most of the Interstate system consists of newly constructed highways. The longest section of the Interstate system runs from Boston, Massachusetts to Seattle, Washington. It covers 3,020.54 miles. The shortest two-digit interstate is from Emery, North Caroline to Greensboro, North Caroline. It covers only 12.27 miles. All state capitals except five are served by the system. The five that are not directly served are Juneau, AK, Dover, DE, Jefferson City, MO, Carson City, NV, and Pierre, SD. The Interstate Highway System serves almost all major U.S. cities.</p> |                                                                         |
| 1  | <p>EACH Interstate highway is marked with a red, white, and blue shield with the word "Interstate," the name of the state, and the route number. Interstate highways are named with one or two-digit numbers. North-south highways are <b>designated</b> with odd numbers; east-west highways are named with even numbers. The north-south Interstate highways begin in the west with the lowest odd number; the east-west highways begin in the south with the lowest even numbers. There all mile markers at each mile of the interstate system, starting at the westernmost or southernmost point on the highway. Every Interstate highway begins with the number "0". Interchanges are numbered according to their location on the highway in relation to mileage; an exit between milepost 7 and milepost 8 would be designated "Exit 7." This system allows drivers estimate the distance to a desired exit, which a road is leading off the highway. Despite the common acceptance of the numbering system on the Interstate highways, some states have adopted different numbering systems. For example, a portion of the Interstate 19 in Arizona is measured in kilometers instead of miles since the highway goes south to Mexico.</p> <p>Since the Interstate highways are freeways-highways that do not have signs and cross streets – they have the highest speed limits in the nation. Most interstate highways have speed limits between 65 – 75 miles per hour (105 – 120 kilometers per hour), but some areas in Texas and Utah have an 80 mile-per-hour (130 kilometer-per-hour) speed limit.</p> <p>The federal government primarily funds interstate highways. However, they are owned and operated by the individual states or toll authorities in the states. The federal government generally funds up to 90% of the cost of an Interstate highway, while the states pay the remainder of the cost.</p> <p>Distribution is the process of</p>   | <p>A. Traveling<br/>B. Taking up<br/>C. Giving out<br/>D. Producing</p> |

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- A. National
- B. Important
- C. Expensive
- D. Audacious

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Something vital is very

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- A. Easier
- B. More complicated

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C. More lengthy  
D. Make it easier

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When you facilitate something, you

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A. Keep and maintain it  
B. Uphold and exercise it  
C. Strengthen it  
D. Make it more pleasant

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When you preserve something, you

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Where are the highest speeds allowed on Interstate highways?

- A. Massachusetts
- B. Texas
- C. Utah
- D. Both B and C are correct

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- A. By taking a cross street
- B. By taking a toll road
- C. By taking a freeway
- D. By taking an exit

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How does a driver leave an Interstate highway?

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- A. In the Eastern U.S.
- B. In the Western U.S.
- C. In the Southern U.S.
- D. In the Northern U.S.

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Where are the highest-numbered East-West Interstate highways located?

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- A. 1946
- B. 1956
- C. 1957
- D. 2000

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When did the interstate Highway System begin?

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A. Jefferson  
B. Eisenhower  
C. Washington  
D. Bush

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Which President supported the Interstate Highway System?

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Chocolate – there's nothing quite like it, is there? Chocolate is simply delicious. What is chocolate? Where does it come from?

Christopher Columbus was probably the first to take cacao beans from the New World to Europe in around 1502. But the history of chocolate goes back at least 4,000 years! The Aztecs, who lived in America, through that their bitter cacao drink was a **divine** gift from heaven. In fact, the scientist Carolus Linnaeus named the plant Theobroma, which means "food of the gods"

The Spanish explorer Hernando Cortez went to America in 1519. He visited the Mexican emperor Montezuma. He saw that Montezuma drank cacao mixed with vanilla and spices. Cortez took some cacao home as a gift to the Spanish King Charles. In Spain, people began to drink Cortez's chocolate in drink with chili

peppers. However, the natural taste of cacao was too bitter for most people. To sweeten the drink, Europeans added sugar to the cacao drink. As a sweet drink, it became more popular. By the 17<sup>th</sup> century, rich people in Europe were drinking it.

Later, people started using chocolate in **pastries**, like pies and cakes. In 1828, Dutch chocolate makers started using a new process for removing the fat from cacao beans, and getting to the center of the cacao bean. The Dutch chocolate maker Conrad J. Van Houten made a machine that pressed the fat from the bean. The resulting powder mixed better with water than cacao did. Now, some call van Houten's chocolate "Dutch chocolate."

It was easy to mix Dutch chocolate powder with sugar. So other chocolate makers started trying new **recipes** that used powdered chocolate. People started mixing sweetened chocolate with cocoa butter to make solid chocolate bars. In 1849, an English chocolate maker made the first chocolate bar. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Swiss started making milk chocolate by mixing powdered milk with sweetened chocolate. Milk chocolate has not changed much since this process was invented.

- A. Poisonous
- B. Disgusting
- C. Emotional
- D. Popular

Today, two countries – Brazil and Ivory Coast – account for almost half the world's

chocolate. The United States imports most of the chocolate in the world, but the Swiss eat the most chocolate per person. The most chocolate eaten today is sweet milk chocolate, but people also eat white chocolate and dark chocolate.

Cocoa and dark chocolate are believed to help **prevent** heart attacks, or help keep from happening. They are supposed to be good for the circulatory system. On the other hand, the high fat content of chocolate can cause weight gain, which is not good for people's health. Other health claims for chocolate have not been proven, but some research shows that chocolate could be good for the brain.

Chocolate is a popular holiday gift. A popular Valentine's Day gift is a box of chocolate candies with a card and flowers. Chocolate is sometimes given for Christmas and birthdays. Chocolate eggs are sometimes given at Easter.

Chocolate is **toxic** to some animals. An ingredient in chocolate is poisonous to dogs, cats, parrots, small rodents, and some livestock. Their bodies cannot process some of the chemicals found in chocolate. Therefore, they should never be fed chocolate.

If something is toxic it is