

HESI A2 Reading Skills Overview



The **reading comprehension section** (47 questions) of the HESI A2 exam focuses on reasoning and critical-thinking ability. Passages concerning health and social topics require a student to analyze and interpret the information. Students must be able to determine main ideas, recognize supporting details, draw conclusions, and identify inferences. Students also might be asked to select the best definitions of selected words. The questions are multiple-choice, and students are given one hour to complete the reading section.

The Academic Support Center (ASC) Approach

Since the HESI A2 exam is timed, it is important for students to determine their most effective method of comprehension (the best way to interpret and answer the questions). For example, some students might need to read a passage several times to answer the questions. Others might be able to scan the passage once and find the right answers.

The ASC program is designed to provide rehearsals in reading and answering questions, which should help students determine their most effective individual strategies. Students are encouraged to time themselves to help determine their best individual approach. Among suggested strategies are the following:

- Skim the passage quickly and then proceed to the answers.
- Read the questions and answer choices; then scan the passage for answers.
- Read the passage carefully and then proceed to the answers.

ASC Support

The ASC suggested activities include practice exercises with answers, allowing students to study on their own. However, ASC English/reading instructors also are available to provide explanations either by visiting one of Indian River State College's Academic Support Centers or by visiting one of the ASC's Virtual Tutoring Collaborate classrooms. Tutors may also suggest supplemental reading practice or additional materials to build individual skills, such as finding main ideas, identifying inferences, and recognizing vocabulary.

HESI A2 Reading Section Resources

Students may request the following materials from any ASC instructor or visit the ASC's webpage.

ASC Reading Resources:

- Finding the Main Idea
- Making Inferences
- Tone and Purpose
- Understanding Significant Details
- Vocabulary
- Argument Fallacies
- Fact and Opinion
- Patterns of Organization

HESI A2 Practice Reading Passages (with answers at end)

1. Food Allergies (7-1)
2. Japan Earthquake (7-2)
3. Endangered Species (7-3)
4. Florida Climate (7-4)
5. Lawn Grasses (7-5)
6. Reptiles (7-6)