# Test Questions

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OpenAI. (2025). ChatGPT. [Large language model]. <https://chat.openai.com/chat>  
Prompt: *As a teacher, create a combination of 30 multiple-choice and True or False test questions for first-year college students based on the contents of the attached file: “Chapter 7 - The Era of Silent Erosion - Test Questions.”*

1. What does the chapter mean by the “silent erosion”?
   1. A gradual decline in spoken languages worldwide due to migration
   2. The quiet, cumulative weakening of language that undermines cognition and critical thinking
   3. A sudden loss of literacy skills following major technological shifts
   4. The disappearance of minority languages through censorship

Answer: B

1. Which consequence is linked to overreliance on abbreviated digital communication?
   1. Improved executive functioning
   2. Enhanced long‑form comprehension
   3. Reduced attention span and impaired memory consolidation
   4. Stronger argumentative writing skills

Answer: C

1. According to the chapter, when words lose precision:
   1. Ideas gain clarity and accessibility
   2. Ideas lose depth and nuance
   3. Only vocabulary breadth is affected, not ideas
   4. Critical thinking automatically improves

Answer: B

1. Which statement best reflects the chapter’s view of language and thought?
   1. Language is only a social tool and does not affect cognition
   2. Language entirely dictates thought in all cases
   3. Language significantly shapes perception and understanding, though it does not wholly dictate thought
   4. Language is unrelated to perception of color, time, or space

Answer: C

1. Which quotation captures the chapter’s theme about language limits?
   1. “Language is a virus from outer space.”
   2. “The limits of my language mean the limits of my world.”
   3. “Whereof one cannot speak, thereof one must be silent.” (used to promote silence)
   4. “To be or not to be, that is the question.”

Answer: B

1. Which classroom trend the chapter laments as part of linguistic erosion?
   1. The rise of student‑led debates
   2. The return of handwritten essays
   3. The decline of structured debates and dialogue in class
   4. The elimination of standardized tests

Answer: C

1. Which example illustrates “shrinking vocabulary” in digital spaces?
   1. Emojis replacing descriptive adjectives and acronyms replacing context
   2. Long‑form essays increasing on all platforms
   3. More precise scientific language on social media
   4. Fewer abbreviations in texting culture

Answer: A

1. The chapter cites a University of Helsinki tracking study reporting what change among users aged 13–18 compared to 2005?
   1. A 15% increase in expressive vocabulary
   2. No measurable change in expressive vocabulary
   3. A 30% drop in expressive vocabulary
   4. A 60% drop in expressive vocabulary

Answer: C

1. What neural effect does habitual short‑form content consumption have, according to the chapter?
   1. Strengthening pathways for sustained analysis and synthesis
   2. Weakening pathways that support sustained analysis and synthesis
   3. No effect on neural pathways
   4. Improving working memory across tasks

Answer: B

1. Which of the following is NOT identified as a stakeholder called upon to act?
   1. Educators
   2. Policymakers
   3. Tech developers
   4. Futures traders

Answer: D

1. Which strategy does the chapter recommend to rebuild articulate thought?
   1. Weekly sessions in philosophical inquiry, debate, and creative expression
   2. Replacing reading with video summaries
   3. Maximizing screen time in classrooms
   4. Eliminating writing assignments in favor of multiple‑choice tests

Answer: A.

1. What curricular shift does the chapter propose for schools?
   1. Add media literacy and semantic analysis as core subjects
   2. Remove literature courses to focus on coding only
   3. Prioritize standardized test prep over discussion
   4. Limit writing to social‑media‑length posts

Answer: A

1. Why does the chapter argue that language is “the architecture of our inner world”?
   1. Because language functions independently of cognition
   2. Because language enables abstraction, empathy, comparison, and dissent
   3. Because language eliminates the need for perception
   4. Because language is purely ornamental in thought

Answer: B

1. Which classroom practice is suggested to counter skimming and distraction?
   1. Deep‑reading culture led by educators
   2. Exclusive use of bullet‑point slides
   3. Banning all print materials
   4. Replacing libraries with short‑form feeds

Answer: A

1. What is the chapter’s stance on screen time in classrooms?
   1. No guidance provided
   2. Advocates a classroom screen‑time threshold grounded in cognitive science
   3. Promotes limitless device use to build digital fluency
   4. Recommends banning all devices without exception

Answer: B

1. Which initiative is listed as a way to revive public discourse?
   1. Storytelling festivals and spoken‑word showcases
   2. Reducing oral presentations
   3. Ending intergenerational conversations
   4. Restricting classroom discussion

Answer: A

1. According to the chapter, what has the exponential rise in social‑media dependency coincided with?
   1. Increases in vocabulary diversity and critical thinking
   2. Declines in literacy, vocabulary diversity, and critical thinking among youth
   3. Stable literacy levels across age groups
   4. Higher scores on deep‑reading comprehension

Answer: B

1. What is the chapter’s overall call to action regarding language?
   1. Reclaim language to reclaim the mind through cultivation—not censorship
   2. Outlaw social media in all countries
   3. Replace classroom discussion with AI chat tools
   4. Adopt a single global language to reduce confusion

Answer: A

1. Which learning outcome aligns with the chapter’s aims?
   1. Memorize all emoji meanings in current use
   2. Analyze effects of digital media on vocabulary, literacy, and attention span
   3. Demonstrate faster texting speed
   4. Use fewer words in academic essays

Answer: B

1. Which teaching environment does the chapter encourage students to help create?
   1. Dialogue‑rich environments in class and at home
   2. Silence‑only classrooms
   3. Device‑only learning spaces
   4. Assessment‑only lecture halls

Answer: A

**True & False**

1. The chapter states that when language shrinks through loss or limited exposure, cognition and perception can be negatively affected. (Answer: True)
2. The chapter claims that language entirely dictates thought. (Answer: False)
3. Social‑media overuse is linked to declines in literacy, vocabulary, and critical thinking among youth. (Answer: True)
4. Emojis are praised in the chapter for enriching adjectives with more nuance than words. (Answer: False)
5. The chapter recommends weekly sessions in philosophical inquiry, debate, and creative expression. (Answer: True)
6. The chapter endorses censorship as the main way to restore language. (Answer: False)
7. A classroom screen‑time threshold grounded in cognitive science is suggested. (Answer: True)
8. A University of Helsinki study is cited as reporting a 30% drop in expressive vocabulary among 13–18‑year‑olds compared to 2005. (Answer: True)
9. “Silent erosion” frames language as merely a social tool unrelated to cognition. (Answer: True)
10. Reviving public discourse is described as a new pedagogical mandate. (Answer: True)