

## 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”?
  - A. A gradual decline in spoken languages worldwide due to migration
  - B. The quiet, cumulative weakening of language that undermines cognition and critical thinking
  - C. A sudden loss of literacy skills following major technological shifts
  - D. The disappearance of minority languages through censorship

Answer: B

2. Which consequence is linked to overreliance on abbreviated digital communication?
  - A. Improved executive functioning
  - B. Enhanced long-form comprehension
  - C. Reduced attention span and impaired memory consolidation
  - D. Stronger argumentative writing skills

Answer: C

3. According to the chapter, when words lose precision:
  - A. Ideas gain clarity and accessibility
  - B. Ideas lose depth and nuance
  - C. Only vocabulary breadth is affected, not ideas
  - D. Critical thinking automatically improves

Answer: B

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

Answer: C

5. Which quotation captures the chapter's theme about language limits?
- A. "Language is a virus from outer space."
  - B. "The limits of my language mean the limits of my world."
  - C. "Whereof one cannot speak, thereof one must be silent." (used to promote silence)
  - D. "To be or not to be, that is the question."

Answer: B

6. Which classroom trend the chapter laments as part of linguistic erosion?
- A. The rise of student-led debates
  - B. The return of handwritten essays
  - C. The decline of structured debates and dialogue in class
  - D. The elimination of standardized tests

Answer: C

7. Which example illustrates "shrinking vocabulary" in digital spaces?
- A. Emojis replacing descriptive adjectives and acronyms replacing context
  - B. Long-form essays increasing on all platforms
  - C. More precise scientific language on social media
  - D. Fewer abbreviations in texting culture

Answer: A

8. The chapter cites a University of Helsinki tracking study reporting what change among users aged 13–18 compared to 2005?
- A. A 15% increase in expressive vocabulary
  - B. No measurable change in expressive vocabulary
  - C. A 30% drop in expressive vocabulary
  - D. A 60% drop in expressive vocabulary

Answer: C

9. What neural effect does habitual short-form content consumption have, according to the chapter?
- A. Strengthening pathways for sustained analysis and synthesis
  - B. Weakening pathways that support sustained analysis and synthesis
  - C. No effect on neural pathways
  - D. Improving working memory across tasks

Answer: B

10. Which of the following is NOT identified as a stakeholder called upon to act?
- A. Educators
  - B. Policymakers
  - C. Tech developers

D. Futures traders

Answer: D

11. Which strategy does the chapter recommend to rebuild articulate thought?
- A. Weekly sessions in philosophical inquiry, debate, and creative expression
  - B. Replacing reading with video summaries
  - C. Maximizing screen time in classrooms
  - D. Eliminating writing assignments in favor of multiple-choice tests

Answer: A.

12. What curricular shift does the chapter propose for schools?
- A. Add media literacy and semantic analysis as core subjects
  - B. Remove literature courses to focus on coding only
  - C. Prioritize standardized test prep over discussion
  - D. Limit writing to social-media-length posts

Answer: A

13. Why does the chapter argue that language is “the architecture of our inner world”?
- A. Because language functions independently of cognition
  - B. Because language enables abstraction, empathy, comparison, and dissent
  - C. Because language eliminates the need for perception
  - D. Because language is purely ornamental in thought

Answer: B

14. Which classroom practice is suggested to counter skimming and distraction?
- A. Deep-reading culture led by educators
  - B. Exclusive use of bullet-point slides
  - C. Banning all print materials
  - D. Replacing libraries with short-form feeds

Answer: A

15. What is the chapter’s stance on screen time in classrooms?
- A. No guidance provided
  - B. Advocates a classroom screen-time threshold grounded in cognitive science
  - C. Promotes limitless device use to build digital fluency
  - D. Recommends banning all devices without exception

Answer: B

16. Which initiative is listed as a way to revive public discourse?
- A. Storytelling festivals and spoken-word showcases

- B. Reducing oral presentations
- C. Ending intergenerational conversations
- D. Restricting classroom discussion

Answer: A

17. According to the chapter, what has the exponential rise in social-media dependency coincided with?

- A. Increases in vocabulary diversity and critical thinking
- B. Declines in literacy, vocabulary diversity, and critical thinking among youth
- C. Stable literacy levels across age groups
- D. Higher scores on deep-reading comprehension

Answer: B

18. What is the chapter's overall call to action regarding language?

- A. Reclaim language to reclaim the mind through cultivation—not censorship
- B. Outlaw social media in all countries
- C. Replace classroom discussion with AI chat tools
- D. Adopt a single global language to reduce confusion

Answer: A

19. Which learning outcome aligns with the chapter's aims?

- A. Memorize all emoji meanings in current use
- B. Analyze effects of digital media on vocabulary, literacy, and attention span
- C. Demonstrate faster texting speed
- D. Use fewer words in academic essays

Answer: B

20. Which teaching environment does the chapter encourage students to help create?

- A. Dialogue-rich environments in class and at home
- B. Silence-only classrooms
- C. Device-only learning spaces
- D. Assessment-only lecture halls

Answer: A

### True & False

21. The chapter states that when language shrinks through loss or limited exposure, cognition and perception can be negatively affected. (Answer: True)

22. The chapter claims that language entirely dictates thought. (Answer: False)

23. Social-media overuse is linked to declines in literacy, vocabulary, and critical thinking among youth. (Answer: True)

24. Emojis are praised in the chapter for enriching adjectives with more nuance than words. (Answer: False)
25. The chapter recommends weekly sessions in philosophical inquiry, debate, and creative expression. (Answer: True)
26. The chapter endorses censorship as the main way to restore language. (Answer: False)
27. A classroom screen-time threshold grounded in cognitive science is suggested. (Answer: True)
28. 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)
29. “Silent erosion” frames language as merely a social tool unrelated to cognition. (Answer: True)
30. Reviving public discourse is described as a new pedagogical mandate. (Answer: True)