Passage # 1  
**Introduction**  
Memorial Day weekend had finally arrived and Sherry was looking forward to the long weekend. She was going away for the weekend with some friends. The weather was supposed to be nice, so they had decided to go hiking in the state park.

**Primary Character-Trait Elaboration**  
Sherry had always been the type of person who was willing to take risks. She loved the element of danger that was present in extreme sports. She especially liked the feeling of having no control over her body. She was willing to try anything, not matter how daring, at least once. Last year she went skydiving even though her parents thought she was crazy.

**Alternative Character-Trait Elaboration**  
Sherry was nervous because she had always been afraid of heights. As a little girl she recalls refusing to dive off the high board in gym class. One day her teacher somehow persuaded her to step up onto the board. Sherry was completely overcome with panic as she stepped to the edge and looked down from above. She passed out into her teacher’s arms.

**Inference-Setting Information**  
Sherry and her friends had walked up some trails that led to a cliff. She watched everybody leap into the river below.

**Inference-Evoking Sentence**  
Sherry looked over the edge of the cliff.

**Baseline Sentence**  
Sherry decided she would sit and not go in.

**High-Compatible Inference**  
Jump

**Low-Compatible Inference**  
Fear

**Comprehension Question**  
Did Sherry and her friends walk up a trail?
Passage #2

Introduction
Doug and wife had been married for about two months. They had finally found a house that they both liked and could afford. His wife wanted to have a party to show off their house but she did not know who to invite.

Primary Character-Trait Elaboration
Doug was not well liked because he was very irritable. The smallest things seemed to set him off and made him shout. Doug often believed that other people’s mistakes were actually done on purpose just to annoy him. His attitude was even worse with his wife. It seemed that he was always screaming at her over every little mistake that she had made.

Alternative Character-Trait Elaboration
Doug had many friends because of his easy-going personality. He never seemed to let small things bother him. Doug believed that confrontation was only necessary in the most serious of cases. He often giggled when he was with his wife. She was very clumsy and always seemed to be dropping things. Her frequent mishaps were funny to Doug and always made him chuckle.

Inference-Setting Information
Doug and his wife were unpacking some of the new dishes that they had just bought. They had also bought some matching glasses.

Inference-Evoking Sentence
His wife accidentally broke a new dish.

Baseline Sentence
His wife really loved how they matched.

High-Compatible Inference
Yell

Low-Compatible Inference
Laugh

Comprehension Question
Had Doug and his wife owned a house for several years?
Passage #3

Introduction
It was a beautiful day, so Betty decided to take her six-month-old daughter to the park. Once they got there, Betty noticed a group of women sitting on the benches. She decided to go sit with them.

Primary Character-Trait Elaboration
Betty was trying to talk, but the baby was being fussy. As cranky as the baby was with Betty, she was even worse with strangers. If anyone else tried to hold her, she would always get extremely upset. It seemed that no matter what Betty did, the baby was always unhappy. Betty could not figure out why the baby was so easily upset.

Alternative Character-Trait Elaboration
Betty had an easy time being around people with her baby. As young as the baby was, she appeared very happy to be with strangers. The baby enjoyed mimicking the cheerful faces of those she met. The baby always grinned when she looked at someone new. Betty was pleased that she could take a break if she wanted without the baby getting upset.

Inference-Setting Information
The women were all very interested in talking with Betty about her new baby. They were all commenting on the baby’s temperament.

Inference-Evoking Sentence
One of them reached to pick the baby up.

Baseline Sentence
One of the women asked how old she was.

High- Compatible Inference
Cries

Low-Compatible Inference
Smile

Comprehension Question
Was Betty in the park all by herself?
Passage #4

Introduction
George was a senior in high school. He was looking forward to graduation. He was planning on attending college although he didn’t know what he was going to major in. In order to graduate, George had to take a history class.

Primary Character-Trait Elaboration
George enjoyed making people laugh and he liked being the center of attention. He was always answering or giving his opinions in class. He liked to show his classmates and his teachers how much he knew. He was also eager to please his teachers and would never deny a request. He was very outgoing and he was friends with everyone.

Alternative Character-Trait Elaboration
Ever since he was a young boy George had always been very shy. His greatest fear was speaking in front of an audience. George never answered questions in class for fear of saying something stupid. When a teacher would assign an oral report, George would feel sick to his stomach. George did whatever he could to avoid speaking in class.

Inference-Setting Information
George was sitting in his history class. His teacher said that she wanted somebody to give a brief presentation on Abraham Lincoln.

Inference-Evoking Sentence
She asked George if he wanted to volunteer.

Baseline Sentence
One of the new students tried to volunteer.

High- Compatible Inference
Agreed

Low-Compatible Inference
Nervous

Comprehension Question
Was George a senior in high school?
Passage #5

Introduction
Sarah’s son was turning five years old so she had decided to give him a birthday party. She had invited ten children from his kindergarten class. She hoped that she had not left out any of his friends.

Primary Character-Trait Elaboration
Sarah was an unconventional parent. She was an artist and she believed it was important for children to express themselves. She let her son do whatever he wanted because she didn’t believe in saying no. She was appalled that some parents would try to stifle their children’s expressions. In fact, she would often join in with some of the things her children would do.

Alternative Character-Trait Elaboration
Sarah was a perfectionist. She prided herself on having the most well kept home in the neighborhood. She demanded that her son obey strict rules of neatness when straightening up his room and picking up his toys. If Sarah saw something dirty in her home, she insisted upon scrubbing the area immediately. During the party Sarah wanted to ensure that her house appeared spotless.

Inference-Setting Information
When Sarah left the room, the kids had gotten into a food fight. Sarah walked in and found cake all over the place.

Inference-Evoking Sentence
Sarah started picking up some of the cake.

Baseline Sentence
But then Sarah decided to leave the party.

High-Compatible Inference
Throw

Low-Compatible Inference
Clean

Comprehension Question
Was Sarah’s son having his second birthday party?
Passage #6

Introduction
It was a cool fall day and Sheila was on her way to work. She didn’t live far from work so she had decided to walk. She liked to walk because it gave her time to think.

Primary Character-Trait Elaboration
She knew she was lucky to have so much, so she always made a point of helping others. She was very generous and was always donating to a worthy cause. She couldn’t stand to see people suffer. She could never pass by somebody in need if there was any way she could help. She was the type of person who would share everything that she had.

Alternative Character-Trait Elaboration
Sheila passed a volunteer collecting money for the Salvation Army. She was intolerant of any type of solicitor on the street. She silently scorned beggars and couldn’t understand how people could just hand money over to help a stranger. She hated how these organizations tried to make people like her feel guilty. Her natural reaction to this type of occurrence was to look the other way.

Inference-Setting Information
Before she knew it, Sheila was almost at work. She walked by a homeless man sitting on the corner of the street.

Inference-Evoking Sentence
He asked her if she had any spare change.

Baseline Sentence
She saw that his shoes were old and torn.

High-Compatible Inference
Give

Low-Compatible Inference
Ignore

Comprehension Question
Did Sheila decide to walk to work?
Passage #7

Introduction
Charlotte was a freshman at Harvard. Her family was incredibly wealthy so she was able to live in a nice apartment off campus. She had never been to Boston so she wasn’t sure if she would like the city.

Primary Character-Trait Elaboration
Charlotte was excited to meet new and different types of people. She was looking forward to discovering how people of different ethnic backgrounds and social classes lived. She hated her high school because everybody there was exactly the same. Charlotte would start a conversation with anybody. She thought that everybody had a different story to tell and she wanted to speak to them all.

Alternative Character-Trait Elaboration
Charlotte had been afraid of strangers since she was very young. Her shy personality was exaggerated when she met someone new. She came from a small town and the prospect of meeting new people in Boston frightened her. In fact, when anyone unfamiliar approached her she would not talk and remained quiet. Many people thought Charlotte was rude because she would often stay quiet.

Inference-Setting Information
While she was out shopping Charlotte decided to get something to eat. At one point, she sat down on the steps and enjoyed the view.

Inference-Evoking Sentence
A stranger sat down and said hello to her.

Baseline Sentence
She noticed a lot of odd people walking by.

High-Compatible Inference
Talk

Low-Compatible Inference
Leave

Comprehension Question
Had Charlotte grown up in Boston?
Passage #8

Introduction
Carol was a single mother with two young children. She had to work two jobs to make ends meet. She worked full-time as a teacher and part-time as a waitress. She hated not having much free time.

Primary Character-Trait Elaboration
Carol was known for her short temper and her tendency to act without thinking. She never thought about the consequences of her actions, so she often suffered negative repercussions. She refused to let people walk all over her. In fact, she had just gotten a ticket for road rage. She decided she would never put up with anyone that was not nice to her.

Alternative Character-Trait Elaboration
Carol had just come back to work after having had shoulder surgery. She needed to be careful whenever raising anything from a customer’s table. Every time she did, it would hurt so much that she thought she might faint. If she raised something too high, she was extremely uncomfortable all night. But, usually, she asked for help when she needed to clear a table.

Inference-Setting Information
One particular night, Carol had an extremely rude customer. He complained about his spaghetti, and he yelled at Carol as if it was her fault.

Inference-Evoking Sentence
Carol lifted the spaghetti above his head.

Baseline Sentence
Carol grabbed the spaghetti and went away.

High-Compatible Inference
Dump

Low-Compatible Inference
Pain

Comprehension Question
Was Carol a single mother?
Passage #9

Introduction
Julie was about to finish high school. She took her last exam two days ago. The teacher was supposed to hand them back today. She was hoping the teacher would also give them their final grade for the course.

Primary Character-Trait Elaboration
Even as a young child, Julie never got good grades in school. She was not very smart and she didn’t put any effort into school. She never studied and she never passed important exams, causing her to repeat many of classes. Even if she graduated from high school, Julie had no idea what she would do. She hadn’t even considered going to college.

Alternative Character-Trait Elaboration
Julie was the smartest student in her high school class. She was very intelligent, but also spent many hours studying for her exams. Her preparedness carried over into even the most difficult of tasks. Julie even helped tutor other students after school because of her excellent grades and stellar academic record. Julie could not even remember a time when she failed an exam.

Inference-Setting Information
She was waiting to find out how she did on the exam. The teacher called out Julie’s name and gave her back the exam.

Inference-Evoking Sentence
She had performed just as she expected.

Baseline Sentence
Julie folded it and left the classroom.

High-Compatible Inference
Fail

Low-Compatible Inference
Pass

Comprehension Question
Was Julie still in junior high school?
Passage #10

Introduction
Sam went to college on a basketball scholarship. He had an enormous amount of natural talent, and he was constantly working to improve himself. Although he was only a freshman, Sam was the star of the basketball team.

Primary Character-Trait Elaboration
Sam’s only weak spot was his free-throw shooting. He never made a shot when he was under a lot of pressure. Sam’s coach tried to avoid Sam get into pressure situations. But now Sam was in a tied game with only two seconds left when he got fouled. The coach was very nervous because Sam never made a shot when he was under pressure.

Alternative Character-Trait Elaboration
Sam was the best free-throw shooter on the team. He was very consistent and made every free-throw no matter how much pressure. Sam’s coach knew that whenever Sam was up he would hit the shot. But now Sam was in a tie game and with only two seconds left, he got fouled. The coach was delighted because Sam would make the shot despite pressure.

Inference-Setting Information
The pressure on Sam to make this last shot was huge. Everyone at the game knew exactly what was going to happen.

Inference-Evoking Sentence
He attempted the last shot of the game.

Baseline Sentence
He talked with his coach and got ready.

High-Compatible Inference
Miss

Low-Compatible Inference
Score

Comprehension Question
Was Sam in his senior year of college?
Passage #11

Introduction
Every Friday night Ricky and his friends got together to play poker and drink beer. It had become a weekly ritual that he really looked forward to. Everybody would bring some beer and they would order pizza.

Primary Character-Trait Elaboration
Ricky played every game to win, whether it was a sports game or a card game. He would do whatever it took to win, even if that meant being dishonest. He thought losing made him look bad. A number of his friends refused to play with him because he did not play fair. Nobody could understand why he was so competitive.

Alternative Character-Trait Elaboration
Ricky was careful to follow all the rules while playing cards. He believed that an honest game would determine the winner. On several occasions when Ricky felt that an unfair hand had been dealt the game was called off immediately. Ricky was the watchdog for the entire group. He would stop the game at any sign of foul play or disturbance.

Inference-Setting Information
During one hand, Ricky looked at his cards and realized he almost had a straight flush. All he needed was the ace.

Inference-Evoking Sentence
He saw an extra ace lying on the floor.

Baseline Sentence
He had been lucky for most of the game.

High-Compatible Inference
Take

Low-Compatible Inference
Quit

Comprehension Question
Did Ricky play cards on Friday nights?
Passage #12

Introduction
Sally was going out to dinner with a group of her friends. They had not been out in a long time so they had a lot of different things to talk about. Sally couldn’t wait to see her friends.

Primary Character-Trait Elaboration
Sally was excited because the restaurant had the best fried food around. She knew it was bad for her but she couldn’t help it. Sally didn’t care about whether she was eating healthy food as long as she was having fun. She also loved to go out drinking. She figured she was young and she would start taking care of herself once she was older.

Alternative Character-Trait Elaboration
Sally wasn’t really very happy about their choice of a restaurant. Her friends like the place and decided that they would be able to unwind in an atmosphere that served alcohol. Sally hated restaurants that had bars because she knew that people would always be smoking. Recently, Sally’s father had passed away due to lung cancer from smoking. Since then she refused to smoke socially.

Inference-Setting Information
Sally and her friends had to wait an hour for their table to be available. They stood at the bar while they waited.

Inference-Evoking Sentence
Her friend offered to give her a cigarette.

Baseline Sentence
Her friends offered to give her a Guinness.

High-Compatible Inference
Smoke

Low-Compatible Inference
Refuse

Comprehension Question
Was Sally going out to dinner with her friends?
Passage #13

Introduction
School had been canceled because it was a snow day. Henry slept late and then decided to watch some television. Once he found that there was nothing on, he decided to go outside and check the mail.

Primary Character-Trait Elaboration
Henry liked to look through his family’s mail. Whenever he found a letter for either parent, he could not resist looking at it. More than once his family had caught him looking at letters that were not addressed to him. He hoped that he would find out a secret that nobody else knew. He considered it a harmless way to get to know things.

Alternative Character-Trait Elaboration
Henry had little respect for other people’s things. He was also bad at taking messages for members of his family. He would frequently write down a message and throw it away later. When he retrieved the mail most of the time he would throw away anything that didn’t have his name on it. His parents were constantly sorting through the wastebasket for their mail.

Inference-Setting Information
But it was always very annoying to his parents. He quickly looked through all of the mail that had come that day.

Inference-Evoking Sentence
He found a sealed letter for his father.

Baseline Sentence
He wanted to look before anyone came in.

High-Compatible Inference
Open

Low-Compatible Inference
Trash

Comprehension Question
Did Henry go to school today?
Passage #14

Introduction
The end of the fall semester had finally arrived. Bill was looking forward to Christmas vacation. Snow was being predicted for much of the winter break. He and his family decided to take advantage of the snow and rent out a ski lodge.

Primary Character-Trait Elaboration
Bill was nervous about skiing. His older brothers had mastered even the most difficult slopes. But Bill was clumsy and had very poor balance. He had attempted other winter activities like ice staking but within a few moments he would always loose his balance and end up on the ground. He was certain that his poor balance would affect his ability to stay up on skis.

Alternative Character-Trait Elaboration
Bill had been skiing since he was a little boy. His good balance allowed him to master the most difficult slopes. He enjoyed tricks that would send him soaring into the air. Whenever he started down a trail, he looked for a mogul so he could jump in the air. Every chance he got, he would push off so that he could propel into the air.

Inference-Setting Information
Bill and his brothers took the lift to the top of a steep slope with plenty of moguls. They each paused to look down from the summit.

Inference-Evoking Sentence
Bill began to accelerate down the hill.

Baseline Sentence
Bill made certain his boots were tight.

High-Compatible Inference
Fall

Low-Compatible Inference
Leap

Comprehension Question
Was Bill on Christmas vacation from school?
Passage #15

Introduction
It was the first hot day of summer. Stephanie’s mom promised to take her to the swimming pool. It had been a long time since Stephanie had visited the pool with her mother. Stephanie put on a bathing suit and gathered her things.

Primary Character-Trait Elaboration
Stephanie’s mother had been taking her to the pool many times. She had never been afraid of the water. She liked it when her mother would hold her so she would hover above the water. Now that she was five, Stephanie was already a very good swimmer. She noticed that bigger kids would lie on their backs and drift in the water.

Alternative Character-Trait Elaboration
Stephanie had visited the pool several times but rarely would go into the water. She didn’t have much practice swimming. She noticed that older children were able to lie on their backs and move about the pool. She could not swim and when she tried this, she would always go under the water. Stephanie was very afraid of dropping under the water.

Inference-Setting Information
Stephanie and her mother arrived and decided to go in right way. As Stephanie watched the older kids she told her mom what she was going to do.

Inference-Evoking Sentence
Stephanie got on her back in the water.

Baseline Sentence
Her mother wanted her to wait for her.

High-Compatible Inference
Float

Low-Compatible Inference
Sink

Comprehension Question
Stephanie and her mother went to the pool?
Passage #16

Introduction
Shelly recently bought a new apartment. Shelly had lived with her parents for years. After high school, Shelly spent her four years in college living in a residence hall. She was anxious and excited to finally have a large space of her own.

Primary Character-Trait Elaboration
Shelly was reluctant to unpack all of her belongings because the temperature was so high. On moving day it was already over ninety degrees. She knew that the sweltering heat outside would make the temperature inside her apartment more unbearable. Shelly was uncomfortable outside and knew it would be even worse inside. Shelly carried several boxes to the top of the complex stairwell.

Alternative Character-Trait Elaboration
Shelly did not want to spend all day unpacking her stuff. On moving day the temperature outside reached only fifteen degrees. Shelly hated winter weather. Even the slightest draft or chill in the air seemed to freeze Shelly to the bone. Shelly carried several boxes to the top of the complex stairwell. She noticed that all the windows in the apartment were open.

Inference-Setting Information
She set the boxes down and got her keys so that she could open the apartment door. Shelly turned the key and pushed open the door.

Inference-Evoking Sentence
She noticed the temperature in her apartment.

Baseline Sentence
Shelly noticed that the door opened smoothly.

High-Compatible Inference
Hot

Low-Compatible Inference
Cold

Comprehension Question
Had Shelly lived in a residence hall in college?
Passage #17

Introduction
Jack was in the third grade. Although he lived in a neighborhood with lots of kids he did not have many friends. Instead, he spent most of his free time playing by himself or with his dog.

Primary Character-Trait Elaboration
Jack was the neighborhood bully. He was always beating up the kids in his neighborhood, especially those who were younger than him. Jack was big for his age and he liked to intimidate the other kids with his strength. If anybody even looked at him the wrong way Jack would beat him up. He knew he would always win so he wasn’t afraid of getting hurt.

Alternative Character-Trait Elaboration
Jack was smaller than all the boys in his neighborhood and was constantly teased. He was not strong but his size gave him speed and agility. When confronted he would quickly make himself disappear. At times he would linger just long enough to pretend he was standing up for himself. He knew precisely the amount of time he could pause before he had to race away.

Inference-Setting Information
One day while walking home from school, Jack passed by another boy. The boy tripped Jack on purpose and made him fall.

Inference-Evoking Sentence
Jack paused for a second before reacting.

Baseline Sentence
Jack rolled before landing on the ground.

High-Compatible Inference
Hit

Low-Compatible Inference
Run

Comprehension Question
Did Jack lived in a neighborhood with very few kids?
Passage #18

Introduction  
Jenny had just landed a job interview. She had just received her degree and was ready to work. The call to interview couldn’t have come at a better time. She thought about the things that she would need to do before the interview.

Primary Character-Trait Elaboration  
Jenny was known for procrastination. On the day of the interview she slept through her alarm. Jenny woke in a panic because she still hadn’t prepared her interview questions or updated her resume. She rushed around her apartment but could not make up for the lost time. She was already well behind schedule when she found herself stuck in a mile of traffic.

Alternative Character-Trait Elaboration  
Jenny made a list to prepare for the interview. On the day of the interview, she woke up two hours ahead of time to assure that she would be prepared. She had plenty of time to get ready. She left her house an hour ahead of time just in case there was traffic. She ended up arriving even more quickly that she expected.

Inference-Setting Information  
When Jenny arrived she got out of her car and gathered her belongings. She wanted to check to see what time it was.

Inference-Evoking Sentence  
Jenny lifted her arm to look at her watch.

Baseline Sentence  
She saw that car door needed to be closed.

High-Compatible Inference  
Late

Low-Compatible Inference  
Early

Comprehension Question  
Had Jenny received her degree several years ago?
Passage #19

Introduction
Jeff was a creature of habit. He had the same job for years and enjoyed the normal routine that came with having a steady job. Every day after work Jeff stopped at the convenience store. He insisted on playing the lottery each day.

Primary Character-Trait Elaboration
Jeff was an extremely lucky fellow. He had played the lottery many times with much success. He faired so well by playing the lottery that he was able to buy a new house. He had strong faith in his good fortune. The clerk at the store knew Jeff and was always eager to see what the outcome from his latest lottery ticket would be.

Alternative Character-Trait Elaboration
Jeff was an extremely unlucky fellow. He had played the lottery many times with little success. Despite his misfortune he continued to play. He believed that one day his bad luck would have to run its course. The clerk at the store knew Jeff by name. Each day when Jeff entered the store the clerk laughed because Jeff’s chances of winning were virtually non-existent.

Inference-Setting Information
The clerk reached over the counter and handed Jeff a ticket. Jeff took out a penny and scratched off the markings on the card.

Inference-Evoking Sentence
Jeff told the clerk what the outcome was.

Baseline Sentence
Jeff wanted to always use the same penny.

High-Compatible Inference
Win

Low-Compatible Inference
Lose

Comprehension Question
Did Jeff play the lottery every day?
Passage #20

Introduction
Rachel was looking forward to seeing her friends. Each weekend one of her friends would host a slumber party. After a week of classes it was just what the girls needed. The girls decided that they would spend the night at Rachel’s house.

Primary Character-Trait Elaboration
Rachel had always been an extremely sloppy child. Her mother was constantly reminding her to clean up after herself. Her parents told her that her entire room must be spotless before her friends could come over. Rachel sulked as she sat and looked around at the piles of clothes and filth in her room. She knew that her parents would be home from work soon.

Alternative Character-Trait Elaboration
Rachel had always been an extremely conscientious child. Her mother taught her to keep her room clean and tidy. Her parents told her that her room must be spotless before her friends could come over. After school Rachel straightened the few items that were out of place in her room. Her parents would be home soon and she wanted everything to be in its place.

Inference-Setting Information
She heard her mom and dad walking up the stairs. Her mom opened the door to find Rachel and look at the room.

Inference-Evoking Sentence
She walked in and looked under the bed.

Baseline Sentence
She wasn’t sure if Rachel was in there.

High-Compatible Inference
Messy

Low-Compatible Inference
Neat

Comprehension Question
Was this going to be Rachel’s very first slumber party?