

## KEY TO SUBJECT A QUIZ

The following are answers and explanations to the Subject A quiz.

1. False—Because the Subject A prompts ask for a personal interpretations or experience, there can be no right or wrong answer. Readers look to see if you have responded to all the tasks in the prompt, if you have supported your response with specific detail; and if you effectively apply grammar, punctuation, and stylistic conventions.
2. True—The exam often asks for your opinion. Just be sure to support it with specific facts and examples.
3. False—The Subject A also assesses your ability to read a passage critically. It requires you to summarize, analyze and interpret.
4. True—Because the exam often asks for your personal experiences and interpretations, you will likely need to use the first person. Just be sure not to repeat the word “I” over and over again; this is a common weakness among freshmen writers.
5. False—you are not required to take one position or another. In fact, addressing both sides of an issue might demonstrate your ability to effectively see the complexity of a topic and explore it in your response. Remember, there is no “right” answer; just be certain to support your ideas with specific examples.
6. False—Use natural prose, words that come easily to you and are appropriate to your style, tone, and topic. If you use words just beyond your grasp, you may apply them out of context. This leads to awkward language.

7. True—Readers look to see that you have effectively conveyed your ideas, not that you can produce a standard intro and conclusion. For example, some writers choose to have an opening sentence as opposed to an opening paragraph. Closely examine the sample essays in the Subject A Booklet and read the commentary that follows them. Note how the 4, 5 and 6 essays introduce and conclude their responses. This may give you some ideas.
8. True—Each campus addresses this issue differently. Consult your college catalogue before to register for classes.
9. True—Perfection is a difficult word to define. Keep in mind that readers are looking for demonstrated competence in grammar and mechanics, not the perfect essay.
10. False—Readers are not influenced by handwriting, corrections or edits. They are assessing your skills as a writer, a reader, and a critical thinker; not a person who can write a flawless draft on the first try. Do not hesitate to make additions, changes, and corrections. Just be certain that the reader can follow your essay and decipher your writing.