III. Reading Comprehension: 30%
Items 26-30

"Teaching students to write clearly and effectively should be a central objective of the school," states Dr. Ernest L. Boyer, principal author of a recent report on secondary education issued by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. This opinion is supported by mounting evidence that students at all levels have been doing very little writing, and that students who have not learned to write clearly are not likely to reason clearly and critically. This decline in writing ability, therefore, has grave portent in regard to these individuals' future role in society and to the leadership of the community, the state, and the nation in years to come.

26. According to the passage, the decline in students' writing ability is caused by
   (A) relaxation of college requirements in regard to basics.
   (B) too much emphasis on science
   (C) failure of school boards to allocate special funds to teach writing.
   (D) lack of student interest in writing

27. According to the passage, one consequence of inability to write clearly is
   (A) failure to pass college courses in expository writing.
   (B) failure to reason clearly and critically.
   (C) difficulty in gaining admission to college.
   (D) inability to hold a job that requires writing skills.

28. The author of this passage uses examples to illustrate the statement that
   (A) teaching students to write clearly and effectively should be a central objective of the school.
   (B) students at all levels are doing very little writing.
   (C) students who are unable to write clearly are not likely to think clearly.
   (D) the situation in regard to writing skills is beginning to change.

29. If the quotation at the beginning of the passage is assumed to be true, then which of the following statements must also be true?
   (A) Schools should pay more attention to developing qualities of leadership in their students.
   (B) Specially trained teachers should be hired to teach writing.
   (C) The size of language classes should be increased, so that students will have more opportunity to criticize each other's writing.
   (D) Every elementary and secondary school should establish and/or maintain an effective program to teach writing.

30. The author's personal concern with the decline in writing standards is indicated by the
   (A) use of a quotation from an authority.
   (B) inclusion of background information.
   (C) use of examples.
   (D) choice of language.