

## Could You Be a Home Economist in 1950? Take This Test and Find Out!

*Reprinted from May 2010 issue of [Antiques and Collectibles](#) magazine*

In the early 1950's, future homemakers answered questions such as these from the New York State Regents High School Examination. Look back 60 years and give yourself a few moments of fun!



# COULD YOU BE A HOME ECONOMIST IN 1950?

## TAKE THIS TEST AND FIND OUT!

There was a time when public schools took seriously the task of teaching young women the finer points of housekeeping. In the early 1950s, future homemakers (and other students) answered questions such as the ones below from the New York State Regents High School Examination. Heat up your irons!

**1. A hot iron should be used when pressing**

- (A) a silk slip
- (B) a woolen sweater
- (C) a linen skirt
- (D) a crepe dress
- (E) rayon undies

**2. If, at dinner, your hostess spreads a whole slice of bread and eats it without breaking it, the most acceptable procedure for you would be to**

- (A) avoid eating bread
- (B) eat bread the same way she does
- (C) break your bread into two pieces and spread it as you eat it
- (D) break your bread into four pieces and spread it as you eat it
- (E) suggest a more desirable practice for eating bread

**3. A girl displays social sensitivity when she**

- (A) asks her intimate friend to lend her her lipstick
- (B) picks up her friend's trumpet and blows on it
- (C) wears a brimmed hat in a movie
- (D) remarks about another person's choice of food when eating with friends
- (E) makes opportunities for a shy person to share in conversation

**4. Which one of the following remarks will help a child to form good food habits?**

- (A) "No dessert, young man, until you eat every bit of that dinner."
- (B) "Eat the crusts, Ellen. They'll make your hair curl."
- (C) "Here is a small serving of beets. You may have more if you want them."
- (D) "I've known little girls to become sick because they wouldn't eat their carrots."
- (E) "See how Daddy eats all his spinach."

**5. Which of the following is a good rule for the weekly cleaning of a bedroom?**

- (A) Begin cleaning at the top.
- (B) Start sweeping at the door.
- (C) Be sure windows are closed to keep out the dust.
- (D) Straighten dresser drawers.
- (E) Rearrange furniture.

**6. Which of the following features in a child's clothes would tend to delay his learning to dress himself?**

- (A) large buttons
- (B) zipper fasteners for openings
- (C) openings at the back of the garment
- (D) elastic waistband on panties
- (E) kimono sleeves

**7. Which procedure would be most likely to help a 6-year-old overcome fear of the dark?**

- (A) Have him play hide and seek at night.
- (B) Give him his own flashlight to use when he is alone.
- (C) Make fun of him before his friends.
- (D) Threaten punishment if he shows fear.
- (E) Leave the light on in his room at night.

**8. When a babysitter is engaged to care for a 2-year-old, the most suitable article for her to bring with her is**

- (A) a bag of marbles
- (B) blunt scissors
- (C) a jigsaw puzzle
- (D) a book of bright-colored pictures
- (E) a set of miniature furniture

**9. Which of the following items is most important for a well-equipped medicine cabinet?**

- (A) toothache medicine
- (B) sleeping pills
- (C) an antiseptic
- (D) a deodorant
- (E) a laxative

**10. Happy relationships for a young married couple are likely to be strengthened when the wife**

- (A) influences the husband to spend all his leisure time with her
- (B) dislikes to see the husband show affection for his mother
- (C) resents the husband's being asked to work overtime
- (D) tries to make the husband overcome annoying habits
- (E) encourages the husband to join men friends sometimes for play and work activities

**11. The best choice of color for painting walls in a living room with a northern exposure is**

- (A) aqua
- (B) soft blue
- (C) apple green
- (D) dusty rose
- (E) turquoise

**12. Which of the following is most essential to good grooming?**

- (A) eye shadow
- (B) deodorant
- (C) facial cream
- (D) perfume
- (E) colored nail polish

**13. In general, the most efficient home kitchen is one planned so that equipment and work surfaces are in a**

- (A) U shape
- (B) box shape
- (C) one-wall or pull-man arrangement
- (D) two-wall or corridor arrangement

**ANSWERS: 1. C, 2. D, 3. E, 4. C, 5. A, 6. C, 7. B, 8. D, 9. C, 10. E, 11. D, 12. B, 13. A**  
WE THINK A SCORE OF 10 OR MORE MAKES YOU NIFTY.





